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CDXC - The UK DX Foundation

Issue 106

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 10 APRIL

CHILTERN DX CLUB - The UK DX Foundation - Aims and Objectives

"The aims of the Club are to promote HF operating, to encourage excellence, particularly in DXing and contest operating, through mutual assistance and by encouraging support of DXpeditions, the issue of achievement awards, or by whatever other means is deemed to be appropriate".

Membership: Full details of membership are available from the Club Secretary (address above).

Subscriptions: The annual subscription is currently set at £12.00 for UK members, and £17.00 for overseas members. The subscription for new members joining between 1st January and 30th June is 50% of the annual subscription. Subscriptions become due on July 1st in each year, and should be sent to the Treasurer (address above).

Newsletter: This Newsletter is published six times per year. Articles for publication should be sent to the Newsletter Editor (address above) by the published deadline. *Please note that opinions expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Committee.*

CDXC Web site: <http://www.g4uol.demon.co.uk/cdxc.htm>

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL	2	KEYBOARD CORNER	24
EASTER ISLAND VIDEO	2	CQ INTERNET	24
CLUB NEWS AND VIEWS	3	PED CW PILE-UP TRAINER	24
CHAIRMAN'S CHAT	3	HEARD ISLAND 1997	25
VICE-CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS	4	VK0IR - THE EPIC	25
JOTTINGS of the SECRETARY	5	VK0IR & CDXC - HOW DID WE DO?	36
NEWS FROM VE6	6	BEST LAID PLANS....	42
EMAIL ADDRESS UPDATES	6	HEARD ISLAND 1997	43
RF HARVEST?	6	VK0IR - WOW!	44
POSTBAG	6	4J1FS CONGRATULATES VK0IR	45
HILLVIEW GARDENS RESORT	9	LAST MESSAGE FROM PILOTS	46
HS0/G4JMB LUNCH CLUB	10	DX OPERATIONS	48
VK0IR - LAST ONE FOR HR	10	NU2L/VE8 EXPEDITION 1996	48
READERS ADS	10	FUTURE OF SABLE ISLAND	51
EAT YOUR HEART OUT	10	NEW ONE FOR DXCC?	52
WELCOME!	11	A CHRISTMAS PRESENT	52
CDXC AGM AND SUMMER SOCIAL	11	P5?	52
HONOR ROLL CHASER TABLE	12	160M FREQUENCY ALLOCATIONS	53
DXCC REPORT	13	DX NEWS SNIPPETS	55
DXCC AWARDS	13	TOP BAND DISEASE	55
GENERAL TOPICS	14	AMATEUR RADIO IN CHINA (PRIVATE)	59
THE IC 756 - A SHORT REVIEW	14	QRZ CONTEST KEN CHANDLER, G00RH	64
EUROPEAN LEGISLATION	16	WRTC-96 VIDEO	64
BEST QTH?	19	CQ WW 160 - OT7T	65
PETE LINDEN, P29CW, SK	20	UK CONTESTS ON THE WEB	67
1997 DX CONVENTION	21	CONTEST RULES	67
THE DX MAGAZINE	21	WPX SWL CHALLENGE	67
FT-1000MP COMMENTS - YAESU REPLY	21	NA QSO PARTY	68
SWODXA DINNER	22	ZL SUPER STATION	70
PARCHMENT PAGE	23	CONTEST CALENDAR	70
WORKED ALL ITALIAN PROVINCES 70X70	23		
FRANKFORD RC AWARDS	23		
NCDXF 50TH ANNIVERSARY	23		
CANAD-X DEFUNCT	23		

EDITORIAL

Brendan J McCartney, G4DYO

IMPORTANT. Because of other commitments the deadline for the next issue of CDXC Newsletter is earlier than usual. Input must reach the editor by **10 April**.

I make no apology for devoting a large proportion of this issue to the 1997 Heard Island DXpedition - the most incredible DXpedition of all-time with **80,673 QSOs in the log!** Wow - that puts it ahead of GK0JFK! (Sri - joke for older members! Hi!). Many thanks to Alan, G3PMR, for his splendid articles and detailed research into the VK0IR logs, for which I am sure we are all most grateful.

It was both an honour and privilege for Ruth and me to welcome Bob, KK6EK, and his XYL Martha into our home for a brief visit

on Boxing Day. G3KMA, G3LQP, G3PMR and two XYLs joined us for a couple of hours of chat. The average DXer, who generously includes an extra IRC with his QSL card, simply has no comprehension of the problems which the Heard Island team had to overcome to ensure the success of the operation. One interesting statistic - most of the gear was packed into two crates each of which measured 8' x 8' x 20' and one of which contained a complete tractor!

Many thanks to all who contributed to this issue.

EASTER ISLAND VIDEO

G4DYO has a few copies of the video of the XR0 Easter Island/ Salas-y-Gomez DXpedition by KK6EK. The price is £15, including pp. Please telephone before sending money to confirm availability.

CLUB NEWS AND VIEWS

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Neville Cheadle, G3NUG

VK0IR - What a fantastic DXpedition! What a wonderful job the Heard Is. team did! Excellent operating and over 80,000 QSOs despite our being at the bottom of the sunspot cycle. Congratulations also to the pilots who did an outstanding job with the communications and to those involved in the log server. It was a great comfort being able to confirm that one was in the log. I am very pleased that we agreed to double our contribution to this DXpedition. Do be generous when applying for cards - there is still a deficit and every dollar helps.

The highlight for me was my 80M QSO on SSB - a real thrill! For some reason the signals were stronger on the top band Windom than on the high 80M dipole. Who can tell! There were predictably a few moaners on the Internet reflector. Fortunately there were very few. I liked one response along the lines "Stop moaning - just work them!". By the end of the DXpedition they were being worked on 17M with sloping dipoles and short verticals. Well done guys.

A big welcome to all the new Members who have joined up following our recent marketing campaign. We had a fantastic response following our letters to the UK DXCC and IOTA enthusiasts and the mail-out by Chris G4BUE with DXNS. I received a large number of letters commenting very favourably on both the quality of the Newsletter and the new Prospectus. Here are some of the comments: "*Thanks for the mail-shot, very enterprising. I thoroughly enjoyed the sample Newsletter which was full of news of many old friends*"; "*The Newsletter was excellent - certainly a good read*"; "*Thank you for the sample copy of the CDXC Newsletter. I am most impressed with its*

contents and editorial professionalism." At the time of writing I estimate that we have around 340 Members compared with about 250 at the time of the AGM last July. Many of the recent joiners have high DXCC scores as can be seen from the Welcome page

Every new Member should have received a January Newsletter and a welcome pack by now. Badges were made for the earlier joiners and distributed with the January Newsletter. The balance of the badges are being distributed with this Newsletter. If anyone is missing a January Newsletter, a welcome pack or a badge please let me know.

Our marketing efforts are continuing. We will have two mentions in the March *Rad-Com* - in Bob's BRS32525 SWL column and my IOTA column. In addition, Chris G4BUE has published a short write-up on our objectives in the February DXNM. If we can get the details, we are planning to write to all the UK stations who worked VK0IR to try and persuade them to join.

I think we are reaching an important stage in the development of CDXC and are now achieving critical mass. We are receiving a substantial number of applications from potential Members who have not been approached directly. This is of course very encouraging. There are, however, still pockets of DXers in the UK who are not Members. Several recent joiners have reported surprise that the DXers in their local clubs were not CDXC Members. So, let us see what we can do to recruit these DXers into the Club. Any Members who may be able to help can obtain copies of the prospectus from Dave G0HXN or myself by return of post.

In a flyer with the January Newsletter I mentioned that our Internet pages were now on line thanks to the excellent support of Steve Muster, G4UOL. The page URL is:

<http://www.g4uol.demon.co.uk/cdxc.htm>. I think the pages are excellent and attractive and your suggestions for developments are very welcome. Please send these to Alan G3PMR. Some Members have commented that some of the lines in yellow are difficult to read but this seems to depend on the software package being used. Again, we would like to hear about this point specifically. The reactions that I had to the pages has been very favourable. Henry GJ3LFJ commented "*I much enjoyed the web pages. They will be a useful link for people like me who cannot often meet other Members. We will not feel so cut off.*"

A suggestion has been made that we should publish the e-mail addresses of CDXC Members on our web pages. We would like to publish those addresses that are already shown in the Membership list. (Some Members have asked that their e-mail addresses are not published at all and, of course, we will respect these requests). If any Member whose e-mail address is shown on the enclosed Membership list does not want this address published on our pages, please let Alan G3PMR know.

At long last CW emanated from Further Felden during AFS when John G3WGV came to operate. Four hours of high activity followed and John made a very creditable score. I am not sure exactly where CDXC will be placed but we should be in the top 2/3. The following week Steve G4JVG operated and again there were four hours of frantic activity. Another good score resulted and hopefully another good placing.

We slipped up last issue by not inviting Yaesu to comment on the piece on the MP. My apologies for this. Barry G4RKO of Yaesu UK has written an update which is published in this Newsletter. Let me just say that I am absolutely delighted with my MP. It's a great rig and has been totally bug free. This seems to be the view of UK stations who have this rig.

Planning for the 1997 HF and IOTA Convention (26 to 28 September) has started. I am having a break from convention organisation this year after five years of heavy involvement. Colin G3PSM wants your input and ideas. This convention is for you and the HF fraternity so if you are willing to help with the organisation or have suggestions for the programme, or indeed, are willing to give a lecture, please do get in touch with Colin.

In the January Newsletter I omitted to pass my congratulations to Geoff G4AFJ on his election to the RSGB Council at the end of last year. Well done Geoff. May you enjoy every success with your deliberations.

Finally, a reminder that our Annual Dinner is scheduled for Saturday 22 March. It looks as though it will be well attended again, so do come along and meet everyone including the recent joiners. Very good rates for accommodation have been negotiated with the hotel. See you there!

VICE-CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Steve Telenius-Lowe, G4JVG

I have recently changed telephone numbers, having decided to go to cable (sorry to CDXC members who are BT employees!) The new number is 01438 232246. I have informed our secretary and treasurer for the membership list. (*Ed: Steve is also available via e-mail - see elsewhere in this issue.*)

I am looking forward to meeting as many CDXC members as possible at the Annual Dinner on 22 March. It promises to be an excellent evening, with what will, I'm sure, be a very interesting talk by Roger, G3SXW.

It is interesting and very satisfying to note that all three amateurs elected as Ordinary Members to RSGB Council this year are CDXC members! Belated congratulations to CDXC President Don Beattie, G3OZF, and members Peter Chadwick, G3RZP, and

Geoff Dover, G4AFJ, on their election. Also to CDXC member John Greenwell, G3AEZ, who has been elected as RSGB Executive Vice President for 1997. With RSGB Immediate Past President Peter Sheppard, G4EJP; Past President John Allaway, G3FKM, and Fred Stewart, G0CSF, also on RSGB Council there are now no fewer than seven CDXC members on RSGB Council. Add to this the fact that CDXC Chairman Neville Cheadle, G3NUG, and member Don Field, G3XTT, as well as G3OZF, sit on the RSGB's important Management Committee, and it can be seen that HF DXers are now very well represented in the upper echelons of the RSGB.

I would like to offer a personal welcome to CDXC to new member Victor Brand, G3JNB. I worked with Victor for a short time when he was Advertising Agent for *RadCom* and since his retirement he has been able to devote more time to DXing, as well as his QRP work. Although he retired over a year ago, I'm pleased to say that Victor still keeps in touch with us at the *RadCom* office. Just recently I was the recipient of a couple of excited faxes from Victor as he worked VK0IR first on 18, and later 14 and 7MHz! Welcome to CDXC, Victor, I hope you will enjoy your membership.

So what about the VK0IR DXpedition, then? It seems most people worked them on all the bands they wanted from 15 to 80m at least, with a lucky few making it on 160m too. The analysis of CDXC members in the VK0IR log by Alan, G3PMR, makes very interesting reading. I was amazed how easy it was to work them on 20m SSB: they came back to literally my first call, which isn't always expected when you're using a 20m dipole at 20ft! This was one of those occasions which Brendan referred to as 'MAGIC' in the last Newsletter. I can't remember a major DXpedition which was as easy to work, or maybe I was just incredibly lucky, calling on exactly the right frequency

at exactly the right time? I was slightly disappointed that I never heard VK0IR on 40m SSB: it seems the days I was listening for them they were on 40 CW instead, but the experience on 20 more than made up for not working them on 40.

JOTTINGS of the SECRETARY

Dave Mann G0HXN

Well 1997 is now upon us and as I write the bookings for the Dinner are dropping through the door. We are now up to 40 firm bookings, so that's 20 places left. Please ring me before posting off your cheque just to check that there is a place for you. BOOK NOW so as not to be disappointed. If you have lost your booking slip (which several members have) just write in blood on the back of an envelope, but get your cheque to me a.s.a.p. A goodly number have already booked to stay over after the dinner and this will cost £30.00 per head for Bed & Breakfast. Just mention CDXC when you book. I gather several have fallen foul of the dreaded system that doesn't know about CDXC booking but I think all staff have now been briefed. Maps and Menus will be sent to all who have booked at the beginning of March; the reason for the delay is that the new menus have not yet been formulated, and Jenny and I are going over one evening to discuss the menu and to sample same at same time.

I hope that you all managed to work Heard Island. I didn't - every time I got home from work either propagation was not there, or the operator was up to 6's in numbers, and disappeared by the time the zero's came round again. From a personal point of view I was disappointed in the DXpedition, although I know that many worked them on many bands and modes. It will be interesting to see the final figures.

With Neville's marketing skills taking off in 97 I have been inundated by new members; I think at the last count over 70 new mem-

bers had signed up. Elsewhere in the Newsletter you will see a list of the new ones I have recorded. For obvious reasons the list is not definitive but hopefully we will catch up in the May Newsletter. It has been interesting to read some of the letters, and comments which have been enclosed with the applications. Some of the records make me very envious, so don't forget, you new members, are you eligible for the **CDXC HONOR ROLL CHASER CERTIFICATE?** You need 270 or more confirmed. Details from Bren G4DYO.

I have been wondering if any of our members have been dabbling with 73Khz, would be interested to know of results. Perhaps an article to the Newsletter?

NEWS FROM VE6

David Evans, G3OUF, is presently working in Edmonton, Alberta and has been signing G3OUF/VE6 since arriving last May. He has just obtained his Canadian advanced call which is VE6DXX and hopes to work many CDXC members. David and Rosemary, G0NDB/VE6, moved into a new house late October and just have wire antennas up at present, running 100Watts. David has 20 acres for antennas and hopes to get the first mast up in the Spring; its not mast WX at minus 30C!

David, who was SYSOP for GB7DXH, is

also now running the Edmonton DX Cluster, VE6DXD (DX Data) which has a direct link to AC4ET. He regularly sees spots from the UK, although he is not too sure how they get to AC4ET yet. VE6DXX is mainly 20m CW at present but looking forward to the 80m and 160m challenge of working into the UK.

EMAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

The following changes are notified at the request of the members concerned:

G3KLL	g3kll@aol.com
G3OZF	g3ozf@btInternet.com
G4JVG	g4jvg@btInternet.com

RF HARVEST?



Jim, GM3BQA, demonstrates the gentle art of "antenna-picking", employing a Simon Topper hydraulic mobile work platform! It stands around 50 ft, weighs 2 tons and runs on 24VDC! Just the thing for adjusting that G5RV or 2m hand-held! Hi!

POSTBAG

From Jim Kellaway, G3RTE:

Hi Bren. Just read your little bit about Morse in the last CDXC Newsletter. I was rather surprised that you had problems in this area. However I think you can overcome this problem by tackling it head on by doing the following:

1. Throw away your microphone.
2. Join the novices on 80M to start with.

3. When you feel more confident move to 20M. If you make a cock-up at least there won't be any CDXC members to hear you!
4. By now you should be able to master a CW QSO.
5. Now go back to 80/40M and work more competent operators. By now you should be able to carry out a QSO with the best of them!

6. Buy a new microphone.
 7. Forget all you have mastered over the last few months.
 8. Support vigorously the campaign to remove the CW test from obtaining an HF license.
 9. Support vigorously the campaign to abolish CW altogether so there is more space for SSB and Data Modes.
 10. Problem solved!
-

From Peter Chadwick, G3RZP

Following on from the comments in the latest CDXC Newsletter, Dave Leeson, W6QHS has said that according to the mathematical Queuing Theory, the use of partial calls should actually be faster. Dave is no slouch at contest operating, and is a Prof at Stanford University, so his comments can't be discarded out of hand. I suspect that the theory is right IF and only IF, there is no interference once the QSO has been established: any other situation slows the message exchange down. (By the way, Dave uses full calls!) However, is there someone out there with the necessary experience in this area to comment? Possibly someone in a theoretical telecomms protocol background?

(Ed: My understanding is that partial calls are illegal as there is no provision in our licences for abbreviated callsigns).

From Keith Sullivan, G3KYF:

I was pleased to receive my CDXC badge and Newsletter today. I had thought of joining many times and at last I've done it! I've always been interested in DXing, in spite of only having a modest station which, at present, consists of a TS320S running 100 watts to a 3-element TET mini-beam. As the garden is small I cannot string out much wire for the lower bands so I use a trap dipole bent around a pole at the end of the garden and across the house roof. It's OK

for EU but not much cop for DX hence I don't try for 5BDXCC.

I still need three countries to complete DXCC: Kingman Reef, Scarborough Reef and North Korea. I was not lucky enough to work the earlier DXpeditions despite many hours of trying.

(Ed: Keith's scores, which appear in the HR Chaser table, show what can be done with a "modest" station).

From Mike Eccles, GM3PPE:

I'm sure that you have had a lot of correspondence on the recent Heard Island DXpedition. The guys on the island were great - but the Europeans were appalling. During the first few days, the behaviour on CW pile-ups was so bad that I started to consider packing up DXing for good. I regret to say that some of the stations causing the problems were in G and GM, and even one well known CDXC member!

I think a major education exercise is required, starting here in the UK.

(Ed: Hear! Hear! Mike)

From Allan Taylor, G3JMO:

I was interested to read G4DYO's article "Morse" (#105 page 16) and I believe it is what I call the conscious mind reacting with the subconscious one on the same subject. As he says, copying routine date as speed is almost done subconsciously, but let the conscious mind have to construct words and sentences from dissociated letters and let him try to type or write that information and he is immediately slowed right down. Yet, his subconscious mind knows Morse code completely.

I suggest, therefore, let the subconscious mind go right ahead and de-activate the conscious one from interfering with it. Hypnosis? Not quite!

There is an experiment I'd like to try but do not have the equipment. Set the rig, or a Morse tutor, to take plain language Morse at a speed just above "writing down" speed and play it into one ear. Place a TV set, with sound off, where it can be seen when copying. Copy the CW whilst watching the TV and try to assemble the sentences; if there is any improvement introduce low-level TV sound to the other ear and maintain the CW at a comfortable level.

I think that the visual images constantly changing directs the conscious mind from spoiling the copy of the audio images going to the subconscious. The subconscious knows Morse code and can follow it effortlessly. The conscious mind does not know what's coming next on the TV so must pay attention and therefore cannot interfere with the subconscious.

My idea is based on the fact that in my old QTH when I watched traffic through the window, or even closed my eyes, I seemed to copy better than when I looked at my pad or the rig!

(Ed; I might give this a whirl...)

From Herb Asmussen, G0WAZ:

The UK Licensing Authorities do not list first names with call signs. This is reflected both in the UK Callbook, the Flying-Horse Callbook and the Flying-Horse CD-ROM. I use the logging programme "Log-Plus" which has an interface to the Flying-Horse CD-ROM.

Most DX stations' handles are already in the logging programme and, if not, it interrogates the CD-ROM. For example, if I key in "G4DYO", after looking for a QSL Manager, which is not there, it displays "B" in the "names" column. Now many of us know that G4DYO is not too interested in QSLing, but that's got nothing to do with this issue! G4DYO does not call himself "B" but "Bren" or "Brendan". If I key in "G0WAZ"

up comes "Herbert", although I use the handle "Herb". But that's better than "H".

So how does one achieve this? When I was issued the call G0WAZ I simply wrote to the Flying-Horse and told them that my call was G0WAZ and my first name Herbert, etc., and that I also hold the calls OZ7SM (50 years this year!) and DJ0SB. Simple, isn't it? For just 43p you can get your "handle on the Horse".

The address is: Radio Amateur Callbook, POB 2013, Lakewood, NJ 08701, USA.

From Jeff Blight, G4SOF

Thanks for the last Newsletter, I must say I really enjoyed it. I had been a member of CDXC some years ago having joined at the HFC at Oxford. I lost touch, but it's nice to be back in the fold.

Station here is a Kenwood TS-950SD, TL922 and PK232. Antennas are a 3-el Jay-beam tribander on a P60 Versatower, home made 2-el Quad for 12/17m on a free-standing 35 ft tower, 2 quarter-wave phased verticals for 40/80m and a sloper for 30m. With that lot I was able to work VK0IR on all bands 15-80m SSB and some on CW. They were difficult to work at first but, as time went on, I managed to get through OK. They were easy to work on 17m with the Quad and the most difficult was 15m.

I'm very lucky here as my works QTH is only 100m from the shack so I can pop in to the shack any time during the day! This has helped me in the past to get DX in the log while others are working. *(Ed: I know the feeling Jeff!)*

I too can send my call OK and read a CW pile-up but cannot ragchew for my life and if asked I usually have a power-cut pronto!

(Ed: So I'm NOT the only one who suffers from that trouble! Hi!)

HILLVIEW GARDENS RESORT

(Kenningau, Sabah. East Malaysia)

Philip Weaver HS0/G4JMB

Martti Laine once said "Where to next?" in his excellent book on DXing. I believe I was privileged to visit such a place when I attended the soft opening, on Sunday the 15 December 1996, of the new Hill View Gardens Resort at Kenningau in Sabah, West Malaysia.

The owners are Doris and Alfred Undan, both licensed amateurs, who believe implicitly in the fellowship of Amateurs from around the world. There have been previous expeditions to this site set up on a hill in the Kenningau plain. The Resort is now nearing completion and will have two complete station set up for the visiting amateur to do just a bit of DXing, or to run a major contest station.

The grounds have several chalets under construction at the time of my visit and they should be ready for visitors by spring 1997.

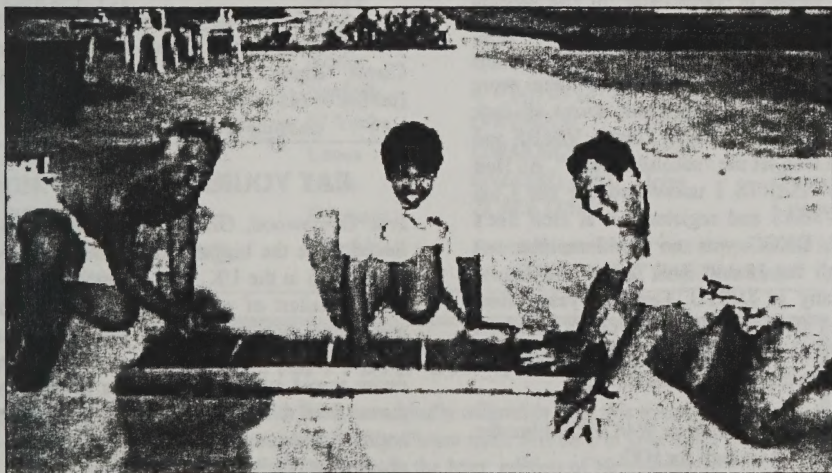
Obtaining an amateur radio license in Sabah (9M6) is very simple and the head of the Telecommunications Government Authority

(JTM) Director Michael Chin, is one of the most positive and affirmative people I have ever met in Government service. He fully supports Amateur Radio and is an excellent example of how a licensing Authority should operate. Getting a reciprocal license is no problem provided you have a full "A" class license and can produce the original and a photo copy for the records. It would be helpful, if before you come to Malaysia you go to a Malaysian Consulate and sign the official Secrets acts document not to disclose any thing you may hear whilst operating as an amateur in Malaysia.

Getting to Sabah, is normally through one of the Asian Gateways such as Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taipei, Manila or Brunei. (There is no direct flight from Bangkok). From Kota Kinabalu it is a further 135 kilometres to Kenningau over a narrow winding hilly road, a scenic drive through jungle and open plain.

For more information on Hillview Gardens Resort, please go to their web page and you will get a good picture of their swimming pool and a visiting DXer!

<http://www.idis.com/alfons/hill.html>



HS0/G4JMB LUNCH CLUB

The dreaded 'flu bug took its toll on your editor, who was unable to attend the 13 January meeting. However, G0HXN, G0OPB, G3COJ, G3KMA, G3LQP and G3OZF, plus several ladies, were able to join Phil (who is currently enjoying life on the QE2 until April!)

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 18 April at The Cricketers, Bagshot at around midday. Why not come along and meet the absolute cream of the world's DXers?

VK0IR- LAST ONE FOR HR

Herb Asmussen, G0WAZ

After 50 years as a licensed ham, I finally reached the magic number to enable me to apply for DXCC Honor Roll, a goal I have had ever since I was bitten by the DX bug in 1947, just months after being licensed as OZ7SM at age 17! The first DXCC came in 1951 - phone, ancient modulation of course, with all the heterodynes and tuning around for a reply. No zero beat in the early days, but this came soon after. However, the propagation was just super: the proverbial wet string on 10 and you were in DX Heaven!

After 4 years in "radio exile" in The Peoples Republic of China I was transferred to Hong Kong in 1960, but licences were not available for non-Brits. However, there were many hospitable VS6 hams, above all Jack Jeckway, VS6CL, Lyell Louttit, VS6BE and others who let me "second operate". As Hon Sec of HARTS I unravelled the old Club call VS6AS and registered it at Hon Sec's QTH! DXCC was no problem, but not enough for Honor Roll before moving to Germany as DJ0SB. Fourteen years there did not give me DXCC; however I got a sort of DXCC in as much as I visited over 100 countries during my business trips.

Then QSY to Florida as W4/OZ7SM but the stay was not enough for HR!

On 1.1.1990 I set foot on English soil and after just 2 weeks started up as G/OZ7SM. Conditions were brilliant then and I started a last and final attempt to reach my goal of HR. Still many trips abroad so I missed a few good ones, like Heard, but the numbers came up and up.

I was of course nervous to bag VK0IR, but their first day of operation gave me both SSB and CW on 18MHz. Since then, and they are still hammering away in a really fantastic manner, which will be hard to beat, I bagged them on 15, 20, 30, 40 and 80! Great stuff.

So what is left? Well there is always the final, final goal of #1!

PS I just got the VK0IR Tee-Shirt - fantastic

(Ed: Many congratulations, Herb. Best of luck with the last few!)

READERS ADS

For sale: 14.4kBaud internal PC fax/data modem with fax and data software and full documentation. Get connected to the Internet and join the fun for the next hi-tech DXpedition. With Internet software too! Only £25. Contact Alan, G3PMR, tel: 01767-677913.

IRCs for SALE : 50p each or 100 for £45.00 plus S.A.S.E. Andy Chadwick, 5 Thorpe Chase, Ripon, North Yorks HG4 1UA (tel/fax 01765-608492. E-mail:

andy@g4zvj.demon.co.uk)

EAT YOUR HEART OUT

Ivor Greenwood, G10AIJ, has what is believed to be the biggest permanent ham antenna farm in the UK. Ivor has several towers, the tallest of which stands 210 ft high and carries two stacked 3-el yagis for 40m and three stacked 5-el yagis on 20m. The entire tower rotates, driven by a prop-pitch motor from a B-29! Ivor is now considering another tower to carry 'another lot of mechanical amplifiers. (Tnx RadCom).

WELCOME!

The following DXers have recently joined CDXC or renewed their membership. We hope that they will enjoy being members and that they will participate in CDXC activities:

BRS 10167 (275)	Ken	Avon	G3RED (170)	David	Cambs
BRS 96462 (232)	Colin	W.Mids	G3RFX	Martyn	
G0FYX (181)	Stuart	Hants	G3SMP (208)	John	Norfolk
G0GKY	Derek		G3VMW (334)	Stephen	W.Yorks
G0LRS (281)	Gordon	Surrey	G3XLF (100+)	Alan	Cheshire
G0ORM (141)	Don	Cumbria	G3ZTM (314)	Louis	Surrey
G0ORO (103)	Dennis	Cumbria	G4DXW	Ron	
G0PCA	Ken	Kent	G4FEU (334)	Thomas	Lancashire
G0PSE (181)	Tom	Somerset	G4KGT (227)	John	Bucks
G0PXJ (110)		Somerset	G4KIV (180+)	Stephen	N.Yorks
G0TYV (202)	Walter	Kent	G4MVA (308)	Glynn	N.Yorks
G0UKX (185)	Raymond	Somerset	G4NAQ	Clive	Avon
G0WHP (117)	John	Hants	G4POF (162)	John	Hants
G2ART (300)	Peter	Lancs	G4RVW (212)	Philip	Leics
G2ATM (305)	Stanley	Notts	G4VBI (150)		Kent
G2BFO (125)	David	Hants	G4VJM	Nigel	
G2FFO (344)	Richard	Lancs	G4WJB	Robert	
G2HKU (282)	Edward	Kent	G4XRX (310)	Roger	Mersyside
G3AAE (378)	John	Essex	G4XTA (325)	Paul	Cumbria
G3CCO (270)		Beds	G3XVF	Richard	Norfolk
G3HQH	Harold	Stockport	G6RJ	A	N Yorks
G3HQX (225)	John	Hants	GD3HDL (200)	Sydney	IOM
G3HZL (280)	Donald	Staffs	GI0RTN (116)	Gerard	Belfast
G3IQF (213)		Bucks	G13FJX (308)	James	Co.Down
G3IZM (128)	John	Avon	GM3CIX		Glasgow
G3JMO	Allan	Yorks	GM3PPE (314)	Michael	W.Lothian
G3JNB	Victor	Norfolk	GM4SID (224)	Sidney	Aberdeen
G3JQJ (224)	Graham	W.Yorks	GW0ANA (275)	Glyn	S.Glams
G3KLL (347)	Brian	Lancs	GW0MAW	Norman	
G3KYF (348)	Keith	Leics	GW4KHQ	John	
G3LUW (277)	Brian	E.Sussex	GW4TSG (240)	John	Gwynedd
G3MCN (343)	Harry	Cheshire	ZC4EE (150)		Cyprus
G3PLP (324)		Devon	Amendment: There was a typo in the last issue. G4SOF is Jeff from Bideford.		

CDXC AGM AND SUMMER SOCIAL

Neville, G3NUG and Trish have kindly offered to host this event, which is scheduled for **Saturday, 5 July**. Please mark this date in your diary now.
Full details will appear in the May edition of Newsletter.

HONOR ROLL CHASER TABLE

All scores in the table are for confirmed contacts with DXCC countries. Position in the table is determined by the current mixed score. In the event of equal scores, position is determined by the all-time score and then by callsign seniority.

There are 329 current DXCC countries, therefore the qualifying number for Honor Roll is 320. The CDXC Honor Roll Chaser certificate is available free of charge to those licensed CDXC members with confirmed current scores of 270+ but not yet on Honor Roll. Please apply to G4DYO.

CALL	UPDATED	CW *		SSB		MIXED	
		Current	Total	Current	Total	Current	Total
G3NOF	Jul-96			328	364	328	364
GM3BQA	Jan-97			328	357	328	357
G4DYO	Feb-97	101	104	328	341	328	341
I1JQJ	Nov-96	327	332	328	333	328	334
G3XTT	Jul-96	324	331	324	332	327	335
G3KYF	Jan-97	306	311	326	344	326	348
G8JM	Jan-97					324	365
G6LX	Jul-96	301		316		321	356
G3RZP	Jan-97					321	325
G4SOF	Jan-97					321	321
G0WAZ	Jan-97	62		315		319	325
G4YRR	Nov-95	222	222	318	323	318	323
G4OBK	Jan-97	301				318	318
G4NXG/M	Feb-97			317	322	317	322
G3LHJ	Sep-96	290	296			313	340
G3NKC	Jul-96	284	288	271	275	312	316
G0LRJ	Jul-96			311	315	311	315
GM4XLU	Jul-96			310	316	310	316
G0KIK	Jul-96			309	313	309	313
G4AFJ	Sep-96					308	324
G4XRX	Feb-97					308	312
GM3PPE	Feb-97	301	307			306	312
G3BBR	Jan-97	306	309			306	309
G3NOH	Feb-97	303	307			304	308
LA6LHA	Nov-96	113		293		300	304
G4AHJ	Sep-96		15			298	304
GW3JXN	Jul-96	236	239	232	237	297	300
G3SWH	Feb-97	295	299			296	300
G3PMR	Feb-97	278	282	247	251	290	294
PY2DBU	Oct-96					288	289
G3KWK	Jul-96					286	302
G3CAQ	Dec-96					285	291
ZS1FJ	Jan-97	3	3	280	283	283	286
G3DPX	Jul-96	273				273	273
GM0EGI	Feb-97			267	271	267	271
G0MSM	Sep-96	47	96	257	261	259	264

If you qualify for Honor Roll but have not applied to ARRL do please reconsider. The incidence of lost cards is extremely low and it would be nice to get a few more G's on the ultimate roll of top DXers.

DXCC REPORT

DXCC AWARDS

This CDXC Newsletter feature lists all UK HF DXCC participants appearing in QST®, including callsigns and their DXCC credits. Bill Kenamer and Nao Akiyama visited the Tokyo Ham Fair last August and spent some time checking QSLs for DXCC. As a result, recent updates in QST have included about five million JA calls, including JA1SNF atop Honor Roll with 329 credited and so far the only one believed to have submitted a P5 QSL, lucky boy! Hi! Hidden among them were the following calls of DXers closer to home:

NEW MEMBERS

Mixed	G3HSR	109
	G3WKL	105
	G4CCZ	151
	G4IDL	109
	G4RTI	108
	G4TSH	110
	G4YVV	109
	G4ZCG	109
	G0DBE	109
	G0PCF	110
	G10NWG	108
	GM3UTQ	120
	GM0UHC	104
	GU4HUJ	103
	GW4BVJ	110
Phone	G3KWK	113
	G3LNS	276
	G3MUL	105
	G0BPK	102
	G0KJW	119
	G0KXL	109
	G0LPX	110
	G0OWE	120
	G0RDP	110
	G3LZT	112
CW	G3RVM	213
	G4HSD	108
80M	G0TYV	106
	GW0ANA	104

NEW HR MEMBERS

Mixed	G8JM	324/365
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ENDORSEMENTS

Mixed	G3AEZ	326
	G3COJ	352
	G3HCT	371
	G3IFB	354
	G3KMA	362
	G3KWK	298
	G3KYF	348
	G3LCS	286

Phone	G3LIK	219	CW	G3SNN	336
	G3LNS	350		G3TTJ	216
	G3OCA	218		G4GEE	229
	G3PJT	324		G4NXG	320
	G3PMR	291		G4OJH	282
	G3RTE	336		G4OWT	236
	G3RVM	213		G4VXT	214
	G3SNN	338		G4WFZ	333
	G3TMA	333		G0KRL	158
	G3VMW	335		G0LRX	291
	G3VXJ	330		G0OOF	203
	G3ZSS	198		GM3UCH	193
	G4BLX	276		GM3WIL	334
	G4DQW	196		GM4FDM	251
	G4GEE	230		GM4YMM	323
	G4IUF	334		GM0AXY	326
	G4OWT	249		GW3AHN	375
	G4PDQ	164		GW3ARS	339
	G4RVW	168		GW3CDP	339
	G0CYL	209		GW0ANA	232
	G0FYX	178		G3KMA	338
	G0KRL	180		G3KYF	311
	G0NOA	196		G3LCS	217
	G0NYL	232		G3PJT	162
	GJ3LFJ	304		G3PMR	275
	GM3AWW	349		G3RTE	331
	GM3ITN	367		G3SNN	166
	GM3PPE	311		G3SWH	300
	GM3WIL	334		G3USX	229
	GM4AGL	231		G3VMW	330
GM4FDM	278	G3VXJ	279		
GM4YMM	326	G4ZME	161		
GM0AXY	330	G0EHO	205		
GU3MBS	260	GM0AXY	260		
GW3AHN	378	GM3PPE	305		
GW3ARS	339	GM4REN	214		
G3CAQ	291	GU3MBS	255		
G3COJ	337	RTTY	GM3ITN	251	
G3GHS	175	160M	GM3ITN	140	
G3KMA	352	40M	G3KMA	334	
G3KYF	344		GM3ITN	316	
G3NDC	309		GU3MBS	160	
G3PFS	240	10M	G3KMA	339	
G3PJT	175		G4OJH	218	

GENERAL TOPICS

THE IC 756 - A SHORT REVIEW

Henry Lewis, G3GIQ

The trusty FT101 is getting tired, like an ageing wife it no longer evokes gasps of admiration from even your most short sighted of friends. It has to go - but it also has to be replaced and what should the replacement be? Possibly for the ambitious, and of course finances permitting, a "top of the range" transceiver would be nice. However, nowadays we are spoilt for choice, as the competition between the manufacturers is intense. This has resulted in a rash of high specification middle range radios all fully loaded with the bells and whistles that we want. One such is the IC-756 - a radio with a difference.

This big difference is the display. At first sight this could be mistaken for a small cathode ray tube, but closer examination reveals it to be a backlit LCD screen consisting of a very large number of small "pixels".

This enables any number of variously sized letters, numbers and shapes to be formed, and to appear clear and sharp. The colour, a light purple,

may not be to everyone's taste but the end result is an unprecedented amount of information immediately available to the operator.

DISPLAY FACILITIES

I do not intend to go through the display specification item by item, but consider the following:

At the top right next to the clock, is a pass band indicator. The sides of this simple

shape move when either of the two passband controls are adjusted, and demonstrates graphically what would require a great deal of words to describe - very neat.

Twelve function switch buttons along the left side and bottom of the screen have matching status indicators on the screen opposite them. The seven on the left have fixed functions for SSB operation, antenna selection, meter function, attenuator value, AGC speed, VOX, front end amplifier selection and compression on/off. Two of these functions change when CW is selected, one of which allows full break-in selection. Those along the bottom, numbered F1-F5, can be made to alter their function and to select 30 or so more items to control/adjust.

Operating frequency information is excellent. Both VFO frequencies are displayed. Below each are shown the frequencies in associated memories. These may be cycled through by the use of up/down buttons, and

placed into the VFO by another button push. VFO frequencies may be exchanged, equalised and used for separate transmit and receive in the usual manner. Selection

of a VFO frequency for dual watch results in the characters growing in size. At all times the transmit frequency is indicated, so that calling on the DX frequency in split operations should now become a capital offence! There are many more memory functions available, but space here is too limited to attempt to describe them all.

Greater control over the screen contrast and brightness would be an advantage. For subdued lighting I suspect that at its dimmest, it



may still be too bright.

I have, as the song goes, saved the best till last. The panoramic frequency display is to my mind quite outstanding. To say that it outperforms my ridiculously expensive SM230 is an understatement. Called up at the touch of a button one has available what is effectively a digital spectrum analyser for free. Four frequency spans from 25 to 200KHz are available. Using ± 12.5 KHz (25KHz span) from the tuned frequency means that one can (as the professionals say), get in quite close to a signal and the results are fascinating. There is a slight delay whilst the computer performs the required algorithm on the incoming signal, probably an FFT. This amounts to 100mS or so, so that the display is effectively in real time. This does however result in the odd CW character or SSB burst to go missing. Apart from seeing all the signals around where one is tuned, there are other treats in store. I watched with fascination some of the big broadcast signals in the medium waves. To see the carrier disappear with fades whilst one or both sidebands remained and to hear the concurrent distortion, really illustrates the selective fading that the text books talk about. Background noise is clearly visible especially on the LF bands. A truly great facility.

RECEIVER CONTROLS AND PERFORMANCE

I will deal with the controls and performance together.

Pass band tuning is provided by means of twin concentric (PBT) controls. I have not had time to study the circuit in detail but they appear to slide one pass band over another. Each control used individually, only shifts one edge at a time as viewed on the display. Rotated together, they shift a pass band of fixed width over a useful range. The net result is a most effective control of the IF pass band, among the best I have used for SSB. On CW, the bandwidth obtainable

would suffice for general usage. Note that the receiver described had only SSB filters installed.

Needless to say I was keen to sample the digital functions. Those associated with the digital signal processor are the noise reducing (NR) function, the variable width audio peak filter (APF) and the automatic notch generator. On CW the bandwidth was first reduced by the PBT controls as described above. The APF was then engaged. This peak may be moved over a range to coincide with the audio pitch. (Note that a separate CW pitch control is available, so that the pitch may be initially set for the operators choice). The result was impressive, the net effect making the receiver feel and sound as though it possessed a good CW filter. The APF can be set for three band widths 80, 160 and 320 Hz. At 80Hz there is little of the ringing that one would associate with analogue filters. Switching on the noise reduction can further improve the subjective result, but this is more appropriate to SSB, where broader pass bands are employed.

The automatic audio notch filter is instantaneous in operation. So much so, that I imagine that it is in operation all the time but only engages when the operator selects the function. It is very good; the whistles that I encountered disappeared completely. Incidentally, the handbook claims that more than three notes may be removed at the same time - even if they are moving in frequency! The worry with an audio based filter is that a strong interfering carrier can desensitise the front end, thus doing damage before it can be removed later on in the receiver. However, as audio notch filters go, this is as good as any I've tried.

There are three alternatives possible at the receiver front end. For the range 21-50MHz a 16 dB RF pre-amplifier is available, as is an all band amplifier with 10dB gain. One can also bypass the amplifiers.

Measurements at 50 MHz gave a minimum

discernible signal of .08 μV with no front end amplifier and .02 μV with the 18dB amplifier in circuit.

Various tuning rates may be selected together with a 1Hz readout, although I doubt whether the ultimate stability of the synthesizers could justify the latter.

TRANSMITTER

Any review, however brief, must contain a few notes about the transmitter. The performance of the transmitter is not so visible to the operator, who will be mainly concerned with power output, reported quality and ease of setting up. The actual power output will depend upon the ease with which the antenna tuner can match an external load to the nominal 50 ohm output. The automatic tuner incorporated does the job efficiently and quickly.

I have always felt that it would be nice to quote the full range of complex impedances that a tuner could cope with on any band. It would be an index of excellence, like the third order intercept point of the receiver. However, the accompanying handbook does go part of the way, and lists the range of resistive loads than can be accommodated.

The measured output into a matched load was in the range 85-100 watts across the bands. The speech compression received favourable reports, and was quoted as being equal to 1 or 2 "S" points.

FINALLY..... I have not attempted to write a full review of the IC-756, but to give you a flavour of what it is like, so, if that trusty 101 is indeed girding its loins for an appointment with the dustbin, do have a look at this one. By "have a look", I mean sit down with one with an antenna attached, and spend half an hour getting to know it. It will come as no surprise to you that I just happen to know where you can do this, without any fear of being interrupted!

EUROPEAN LEGISLATION, STANDARDS AND AMATEUR RADIO

Peter Chadwick, G3RZP

Like it or not, we live in a world with increasing amounts of legislation and regulation. In amateur radio, some regulation has always been necessary, but until comparatively recently, we were able to get away without specifications for equipment performance. Even now they are minimal. But where do these standards and requirements originate?

The overall world standards body is the ISO - International Standards Organisation. This is supported by the various National Standards Offices - NSO - such as the British Standards Institution. At this level we get standards for all sorts of things - the definition of the kilogram, for example, while a parallel body in Europe is CEN - Comité des Normes Européens. In the electrical field, the International Electrotechnical Committee - IEC - is the place where volts and amps and hertz and so on are defined, measurement methods established and defined, and various basic standards are set. The European equivalent is called CENELEC, which works closely with the IEC. Telecommunications standards are developed at ETSI, the European Telecommunications Standards Institute, sometimes unkindly referred to as the European Touring and Sun Institute - the headquarters are about 10km north of Antibes on the Cote d'Azur! So far, there's no problem - although you may, like me, wonder about the necessity for European standards for testing 'natural latex male contraceptive sheaths' or 'sizes of plastic domestic kitchenware containers' ! The reason is in fact to allow free trade, and prevent the imposition of national standards which prevent importation of competing goods. Some standards are useful in ensuring that things work, such as the threads on nuts and machine screws, for example. Consider the

problem if you weren't able to ensure that the PL259's all had the same thread!

The 'free trade' argument has advantages for many products - like private business radio. A common standard accepted for Type Approval purposes throughout Europe cuts the costs of development and approval, and such a standard was amongst the earliest developed at ETSI. The introduction by the EC of the EMC Directive led to the requirement of developing Standards against which equipment could be tested for compliance, and a number of these have been produced. The standard for commercially available amateur radio equipment has not only passed through all its stages, but has gone forward for publication in the Official Journal of the Community, which allows manufacturers to use it as a Standard for showing compliance with the Directive.

These Standards are produced by working groups of a Committee, often by starting with an existing Standard and editing it. ETSI committees are made up of the members of ETSI interested in a particular subject, and after the working group has produced its draft, the whole of a sub technical committee goes through it, and the draft Standard by various means (depending on whether or not it is CENELEC or ETSI or IEC) gets to a stage called Public Enquiry. At this stage, copies are available from NSO's for the public to see, and to comment on - normally through the NSO. For radio standards in the UK, BSI have sub contacted the job to the RA, and the RA gather together all the UK comments. They will then often hold a UK resolution meeting, to which all the contributors are invited, and the various points are argued out, and a final UK position established. After the various national comments are gathered together, the Resolution Meeting is held, where all the points are thrashed out by the committee who did the work. Provided the objections are not too major, the Standard is appropriately amended, and then goes round the ac-

ceptance procedure where it finally gets voted into acceptance by the NSO's.

So how does this concern us? After all, amateur radio is supposed to be experimental, with minimum regulation. The problem started with the EMC Directive of the EC, which basically requires equipment to be immune to RF fields, and not to cause interference. Unfortunately, the Directive isn't very well worded, but some fast work by amateurs at an early stage managed to get home brew equipment specifically excluded - much to the annoyance of the broadcasters who feel that they should have been similarly excluded. Commercially available amateur equipment is another matter, although the peculiarities of the Directive require third party testing of all radio transmitters - except commercially available amateur radio equipment, which can be self certified by the manufacturer. The EMC Standard for commercially available amateur radio equipment is out, and being produced by amateurs, doesn't require such items as harmonics and spurious to be as tightly controlled as does professional equipment - at least at HF. The team that produced the standard (which has the reference ETS300-684) was led by DL5KCZ of DARC (who are ETSI members), and included representatives from the three major Japanese manufacturers, G8JFJ of Assessment Services (a Test House) and amateurs from the German and Swedish administrations. The Public Enquiry phase produced some 45 comments from the UK alone, and the Resolution of these comments occupied us for 2 and a half days in Frankfurt. The IARU EMC Co-ordinator was allowed to attend as an observer, and I went along using up some holiday and some Air Miles to stress the UK viewpoint - my employer being an ETSI member.. The RA sent along one of their engineers to support the UK input , while the RSGB EMC Committee made inputs to the Public Enquiry, but as RSGB isn't a member of ETSI, couldn't send a representative to the Resolution Meeting. Member-

ship of ETSI costs about £5K p.a., and then there's the meetings to attend.....making it an expensive business.

Under the EMC Directive, all electrical and electronic equipment which can cause interference, or be interfered with, requires to be compliant with Directive's requirements, and to carry the CE mark to prove it. In fact, after January 1st 1996, it was an offence in UK law to sell new equipment not carrying the CE mark, and to take into operation such equipment. So if you buy a linear or a transceiver (or a washing machine or TV) that isn't CE marked, the supplier is committing an offence, and if you place it in operation, you are also committing an offence.

But you say, who'll know? The difficulty lies in that if you buy a linear for example, and get EMC problems, you really are on a sticky wicket if it comes out that the equipment is illegal. The same applies if you get a rig from the US - the US versions often have a bit less screening and filtering. Of course, it works the other way - the cheap telephone that picks up 80m is also illegal in this respect, so if you're in the clear on CE marking and wish to be bolshy, you may get away with it in that respect. This isn't an approach that I'd advise, however. Interestingly enough, all four linears reviewed in the February *RadCom* appear to fail the requirements on harmonic radiation, but whether or not they are CE marked is another matter.

Another complication lies in another EC Directive that is awaiting birth. This is the CTE or Connected Terminals Directive, which aims to establish self certification instead of third party testing for radio communications equipment, but also seeks to include amateur radio equipment - even home brew. The idea is to 'harmonise' the power levels and frequencies across Europe - which in practice would probably mean reduction to the lowest common denominator in power and frequency allocation. (10KHz

on 160, lose a chunk of 80, lose all of 4m, and so on) Home brew equipment would then need to be certified by the 'manufacturer' (i.e. the home brewer) that it 'complied', and would then be CE marked. Incidentally, putting a CE mark on anything means that the device complies with ALL the applicable EC Directives, (under the Marking Directive) so it would have to comply with the EMC Standard as well - cunning lot, aren't they? The advantage of this (as stated by the Commission) will be that you can then legally sell your home brew equipment anywhere in the EC!!! To me, this beggars belief - but it isn't out yet, and hopefully won't be. It is being delayed because it is known that the French and German governments won't accept it (not because of the amateur radio implications!), and when it does come out, it has to get through the European Parliament. The IARU Eurocom Committee are monitoring the situation very closely, and the initial UK response by RSGB was put together over Christmas by G0SNO, G4JKS and G3RZP. We claim that this Directive is inimical to amateur radio, and that amateur radio equipment should be specifically excluded. However, RSGB cannot make a formal response until the Directive is published - so far, all we have is rumours and vague statements from the Commission. DARC have responded in a vein similarly to RSGB. It may yet come to pass that there will be appeals for amateurs to write to their MEP to get this blocked..... we shall see. Another pitfall for the unwary lies in the parallel nature of the standards committees - CENELEC and ETSI. You would think that if you had an ETSI EMC Standard for a piece of equipment, that would be the standard to conform to. It is BUT....there's a CENELEC requirement on harmonics introduced into the mains, and that standard needs to be complied with as well. It also limits the amount of DC that can be put on the mains - in the good old days of 405 line TV with half wave rectifiers, there was a lot of dc superimposed on the mains. The use of

non reversible mains plugs meant that all TVs were putting the same polarity DC on the mains, and sub-station transformers got saturated with dc, and caught fire. Now that has been stopped - very much a case of shutting the stable door after the horse has died, let alone bolted!! However, it is fairly important to limit the rubbish put on the mains, and modern switched mode power supplies tend to be the worst offenders, although it is possible that linears using a voltage doubler for the HT could have a problem.

All in all, the standardisation and legislation can pose a threat to amateur radio, which is why the IARU is important in co-ordinating multi-national comment, and the work of the RSGB (and other national Societies) is vital in getting national comment to the right authority. Standards engineering is important, vital and useful, but unfortunately gets pulled into the politics of bureaucracy on too many occasions. As in so many other areas of amateur radio, the price of continued activity is eternal vigilance.

And for anyone who wants to know where I get this from - it's part of my job! I represent my employer on the EMC Committee of ETSI, taking part in producing Standards, as well as on some of the other ETSI Committees - fitting this in with RF systems engineering.

BEST QTH?

Paul, VE1DX, posed this question on the Internet DX Reflector: *"If you had unlimited funds, where would you move to ensure that you had the best chance of working every DXCC country?"* Apart from *"123 Reading Road, Finchampstead"*, there had to be other suggestions!

Thanks to VK3QI, N4ZR, KM3V, K6OZL, WB2RAJ, 9K2HN, ON6TT, K7FR, YS1RRD, W7QDM, PY2YP, K1ER, SM5DQC, GU3MBS, AC0M, VE3HO, W7HR and K1NIT responded. Paul sum-

marised responses as follows:

If this isn't an impressive cross-section of Old Timers, Big Guns, Contesters and serious DXers, what is? The interesting thing was the general consistency of the answers. A couple, including me, felt that we would stay where we were - such is life. We just don't want to move and it's true that you can work them all from most anywhere. Maybe we're just Local QRPers! However, the real question is where would it be the easiest?

The answer that was the most consistent was somewhere in the area off North West Africa. The islands like D4, CT3, EA8 and that general location. Some differed a bit; 5A was suggested as one of the best because if you counted the number of skips to all the DXCC countries, you'd get the most countries for the least skips from 5A. 9H was second in this theory. Two people came up with Italy (or just south of it.) This again lies in the same general area. At least 80% of those who responded suggested a spot within this 500-1000 mile radius. Most agreed that North West Africa and/or the Mediterranean was the top spot.

A few DXers had some pretty hefty scientific studies and computer models to back all this up, too. Anyone who deviated from this still picked the same general latitude, around 30 degrees north of the equator; some suggested a bit further south.

Should I and all who responded should get together and work the CQ WW Contest nest year from that area? My vote is for D4, and who are we going to visit? D44BS. Hi! Anyone want to write Angelo and tell him we all want to move in for a week next fall? He'll be impressed, I'm sure!

A couple of other interesting suggestions. Pick the antipodal point from the most densely populated area of DXCC countries - this has merit as the antipodal point from anywhere, while the farthest, is usually easy to work. The Indian Ocean came up once or

twice. One person wanted to go to the Caribbean, but I think he has a hidden agenda because in a month he's going to spend two weeks in a pretty cold QTH in the Antarctic!

Anyhow, that's a wrap up of the responses I got. Thanks to all.

(Ed: I was an SWL in 5A-land from 1967-70 and can vouch for the "DX input" to that area of The Med. In those days I ran a Lafayette receiver with a string antenna and pulled in stuff from all over.)

PETE LINDEN, P29CW, SK **by Steve Telenius-Lowe, G4JVG** **(ex-P29DX)**

I was distressed to see an item in the December 1996 'CQ' magazine (page 70) reporting that Pete Linden, P29CW, had become a silent key. According to the report, he was killed in a light aircraft crash on 22 August in southern California.

I knew Pete well; he was a young man, in his 30s or perhaps early 40s, which makes his premature death even more tragic. An American national, he also held Australian citizenship and was licensed as WA6VDF (not as stated in 'CQ') and VK3AMX, although it was certainly as P29CW that he was best known. When he first arrived in Papua New Guinea and applied for a call-sign, he was told that his initials had already been issued to another operator (Paul Linsley, P29PL) so he would have to choose another callsign. The choice was easy, CW was his great love and so Pete became P29CW. (Incidentally, exactly the same thing happened to me: I was told I could not have P29SL, but P29DX had never been issued!)

Pete was a missionary, but quite unlike how most people might imagine a missionary to be. At around 6ft, with a big beard and a penchant for checked shirts, he looked more like a lumberjack! Pete worked for the

Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL), a group dedicated to translating the Bible into all the 800+ languages of Papua New Guinea. Hundreds of linguists work as missionaries in the most remote and wild areas of the country, living with the local people, learning their language and in many cases devising a written language for the first time. Often they are living many day's march on foot from the nearest road, let alone airfield. The only way they can communicate with each other and with their HQ is by HF radio. Pete Linden was in charge of SIL's HF radiocommunications networks from their HQ at Ukarumpa in the Eastern Highlands Province. His work included the maintenance of transceivers, power supplies, solar panels, antennas, computers, printers, and any other 'technological' equipment. This often required great ingenuity and skill, in a country where the nearest shop selling spare parts was several thousand miles away in VK!

Even if CW was his first love, as a confirmed SSB operator myself, I can confirm that Pete was a superb operator on SSB and could handle pile-ups with the best of them. He was a keen DXer and contester, active on all bands from 160 to 2m, and gave many 6m DXers their first (and usually only!) P29 contact for DXCC.

There were several other hams working for SIL in Ukarumpa, and knowing Pete was a keen contester I suggested that we should put in a multi-operator entry in one of the major contests. Pete took up the suggestion with his usual enthusiasm, organising a fine station with 4-element quad for 10, 15 and 20m, and building a 40m 2-element switchable phased vertical array especially for the contest. We obtained a special call-sign, P20X, and with six other operators (at least one of whom had never operated in a contest before!) we made a score of over 13 million points in the CQ WPX SSB contest in 1993, setting a new Oceania multi-single record which still stands today.

Pete continued to develop the 40m phasing/switching box he had made for the contest, and when I operated on the VK9MM Mel-lish Reef DXpedition later in 1993, Pete donated the unit to me to use on the expedition. I still have it today. Unfortunately we did not work Pete on his favourite band, 6m, from VK9MM - propagation was just not there - although I think we worked him on every other band from 160m upwards.

Pete left Papua New Guinea around the same time I did in 1994, but was due to return this year. It was ironic indeed that he died in an air crash in California, having flown in and out of numerous dangerous airstrips in the Highlands of PNG. Pete will be sadly missed. P29CW, SK.

P2ØX

1993 WPX SSB
Contest Station

Ukarumpa, Eastern Highlands Province, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Final Score
13,440,570

Participating Operators
P29CW, DK, DS, DX,
JA, KH, KS, NB

Confirming QSO with:

Radio	Date	UTC	Mhz	RST	2X
	27 28		40.20	59	560
	3/93		15.10		

1997 DX CONVENTION

The 1997 International DX Convention will be held April 4th through the 6th at the Centre Plaza Holiday Inn, Fresno, California, U.S.A. Tel# (209) 268-1000.

Please send your registration check to:

Gordon Girtan, W6NW
P.O. Box 60307
Sunnyvale, CA 94088-0307
U.S.A.

Pre-registration is \$60.00 (cut off is March 3, 1997). After March 3, \$65.00

Gordon's email address is:
gordon@svpa-l.org

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THE DX MAGAZINE

The DX Magazine, previously published by Paul and Nancy Smith, following many years of publication by Chod Harris, has been purchased by Carl Smith, N4AA, current publisher of QRZ DX. The March/April 1997 issue will be the first one by the new publisher. Also, QRZ DX now has a WEB Page:

<http://www.abooks.com/dx>

FT-1000MP COMMENTS - YAESU REPLY

Barry Cooper, G4RKO, Yaesu UK Ltd.

I read with interest the various comments made under the heading of FT-1000MP PROBLEM? published in the January 1997 issue of the Newsletter. In an attempt to balance the argument and inject a little local knowledge, I thought it might be interesting to reflect on the development of the transceiver.

The FT-1000MP has been an huge commercial success for Yaesu since the product was introduced in the UK at the Stafford Show in August 1995. An unsurpassed RF performance combined with superb ergonomics has quickly established the transceiver as the de-facto standard for the serious DXer, IOTA collector and contester. The FT-1000MP comfortably outsells the top-end offerings from other manufacturers and in relation to the large number of units shipped, enjoys an exemplary service record with very few examples ever needing to visit a service department.

As with the manufacture of any complex equipment, Yaesu has to balance the time spent in development, trying to create a "perfect product" against the ever present commercial pressures of getting the product to market and generating revenue. Invariably, this leads to some level of post-release modification being required in subsequent production batches. The alternative, the

"perfect product first time" would probably never happen and if it ever it did would be probably be too late and certainly be too expensive!

So, what of the FT-1000MP? A pig in a poke or the best getting even better?

The post-production modifications to the FT-1000MP have been limited in number and have all been incorporated into manufacture with successive batches. The FT-1000MP compares extremely favourably with earlier equipment such as the FT-1000 which notched up 50+ modifications in its first twelve months. Modifications incorporated to-date include:

1. Jan 96. RX DSP selection bug. Incorporated Lot 02
2. Feb 96. Software-bug CW Selection. Incorporated Lot 04
3. Feb 96. Protection circuitry when used with FL-7000. Incorporated Lot 04
4. May 96. Low gain Heil Headphones. Yaesu USA mod. TB9617. (Heil can supply alternative insert for FT-1000MP)
5. Oct 96. ALC control 10 Metre Band Incorporated Lot 05

The lot number is the first three digits after the letter in the serial number e.g. 5M03xxxx would be lot 03.

The 160 Metre spurious problem mentioned by Klaus, DJ6RX, in last month's issue is known to Yaesu. Since his letter originally appeared on the Internet, a modification has been developed which will be incorporated into future production lots. If any CDXC member is suffering spurious image signals on top-band they should, in the first instance, approach their authorised Yaesu Dealer who will arrange for the equipment to be modified under warranty.

oooOOOooo

SWODXA DINNER

For anyone who may be in Ohio in mid-May.....

The Southwest Ohio DX Association is pleased to announce the Twelfth Annual DX Dinner to be held on Friday, May 16th, 1997 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dayton OH. There will be a cash bar at 6:30 PM and dinner at 7:15 PM. Tickets are \$29.00 and must be purchased in advance. Groups wishing to sit together must order as a group. A table seats eight. Please make your check or money order payable to SWODXA and send an SASE for ticket return. Seats will be assigned in the order that requests are received. Seats will be assigned on 15 March 1997.

Seating is limited. Please order tickets from Tom Inglin, NR8Z, 4061 Eaton Road, Hamilton OH 45013. For information on the dinner, contact Steve Bolia, N8BJQ at (513) 429-9954 (voice) or (513) 429-0218 (fax) or e-mail to n8bjq@erinet.com.

CDXC DINNER

READING

22 MARCH

SEE YOU THERE?

PARCHMENT PAGE

WORKED ALL ITALIAN PROVINCES 70X70

This award commemorates the 70th anniversary of the Italian national amateur radio organisation ARI. Work at least 70 different Italian provinces during the calendar year 1997. Cards aren't necessary, your written certification that you made the contacts according to the rules and limitations of your license will be enough. (*Ed: Bravo! Another award sponsor who does NOT require QSLs!*). Send your application with a fee of \$US5, DM7, 7000 Lire or 3 LGS to Award Manager ARI, Via Scarlatti 31, I-20124 Milano, Italy.

FRANKFORD RC AWARDS

The **FRC 70th ANNIVERSARY AWARD** is available for Amateur Radio Operators everywhere and available for contacts made during 1997 only. USA (48 contiguous states) must work 70 FRC members. DX stations, including KH6 & KL7 must work 35 FRC members.

There is no charge for this award! Send Log information only, QSLs are NOT required!

The **WFRC AWARD** is available for Amateur Radio Operators everywhere. DX and US possessions must work 15 FRC members. US and Canada must work 25 members. FRC members must work 50 members. There is no charge for this award! Send Log information only, QSLs are NOT required! For both awards, send log information to: Jack Heisey, K2FL, 616 Chestnut St, Palmyra, NJ 08065, USA

NCDXF 50TH ANNIVERSARY

This is a reminder that the Northern California DX Club's 50th anniversary is still ongoing. Any DX station who makes a contact with 50 club members between Oct.

10, 1996 and Oct. 10, 1997 is eligible to receive a free certificate. The W6TI club call-sign continues to be active and counts for 10 QSO points toward the 50.

QSLs are not required. Send your list with standard QSO information to:

NCDXC 50th Anniversary
P.O. Box 608

Menlo Park, California 94026 USA

All the details are available at our special web site including a list of members and images of the W6TI QSL card and the certificate.

<http://www.aa6g.org/ncdxc50.html>

CANAD-X DEFUNCT

The Canadian DX Association (CanaD-X) is now defunct. The Post Office Box (Box 717 Station Q, Toronto) was closed as of February 28, 1997 and no mail will be forwarded after this date.

The CanaD-X awards, with the exception of the CanaD-X 100 Award which is now defunct, have all been taken over by Radio Amateurs of/du Canada (RAC). Applications for these awards (Provincial Capitals, Seaway and Trans-Canada) may now be sent to:

Russ Wilson VE6VK,
RAC Awards Manager,
1235 Richland Road NE, Calgary, AB,
Canada T2E 5M5

Copies of the criteria for these awards are available from the above address. The Canadian Contest Championship will also continue in its present form administered John Scott VA3PI/VE1JS, (Former) Secretary-Treasurer Canadian DX Association and sponsored by RAC.

KEYBOARD CORNER

CQ INTERNET

g4dyo@aol.com

You can look at Dave Heil, K8MN's DXpedition pictures on the web:

<http://www.tiac.net/users/ad1c/k8mn/>

There are pictures of his operations as A22MN and J52US, as well as DXpeditions to OH0 and OJ0. No pictures are displayed on the opening page, so it's quick and easy to take a look at what's available.

There are plenty of ham Email addresses on this page - in fact, more than 10K, provided by Pete, K3ZR (one of the 8P9Z gang):

<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/k3zr>

The complete IOTA Directory plus updates, plus a great deal of other island information may be found at:

<http://www.micronet.fr/~smorice>

Are you completely, totally mad? This may be the site for you:

<http://www.mline.peoples.it/crazy>

This is the official site from ARI Software for the Italian Island Award. Hi!

DXCC ON-LINE The DXCC Desk now has a page containing DXCC program information, including:

The complete rules

Countries List(Both current and deleted)

Criteria

Field Checking information

List of DXCC Field Reps

QSL Bureau Information

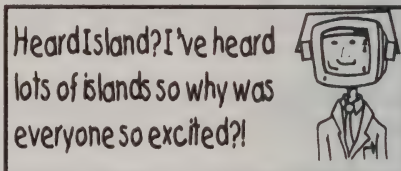
The DXCC application and log sheet.

It may be found this at the following address:

<http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/>

To add to the useful list of Internet sites in the January 1997 Newsletter, don't forget the RSGB home pages at <http://www.rsgb.org>. The RSGB pages are updated at least twice a week and include a link to G4UOL's CDXC page. At the time of writing they also include a link to the VK0IR HI pages. IOTA pages are expected soon, within the RSGB pages. Also on the RSGB pages is the full script for the weekly GB2RS news broadcast. This is usually uploaded on the Wednesday before the Sunday of the broadcast and remains until the Wednesday afterwards, when the next one is uploaded. It includes a 'taster' of the current RSGB DX News Sheet, listing three or four DX operations during the forthcoming week, details of RSGB and international HF contests, propagation information, forthcoming rallies etc. (Tnx Steve, G4JVG)

WAL E. HEAD



PED CW PILE-UP TRAINER

JE3MAS's CW pileup trainer, PED 4.12i (minor version up from 4.11i) is now available from PED original archive:

<ftp://qed.laser.ee.es.osaka-u.ac.jp/pub/radio/ped/ped412i.zip>

The document is actually for 4.11i. The author says that 4.12i works for SoundBlaster 32 AWE as well. He also says SB related options can be omitted as automatic detection is now enhanced. His QTH and mail address have been updated.

PED related mail directory to: JE3MAS at: masiii@InfoChan.COM

HEARD ISLAND 1997

VK0IR - THE EPIC

Alan Jubb, G3PMR

The experiences, thoughts, and observations of an average DXer.

Introduction

The incredible VK0IR operation will, I am sure, go down in DX history as the best DXpedition of all time. The planning, operating standards, technology utilisation, behind the scenes support and sheer number of QSOs logged have set the standard for future operations to attempt to emulate.

Boxing Day

For me, the Heard Island saga really started on Boxing Day, when Bren, G4DYO and his XYL Ruth, kindly invited a few DXers to their home for a chat and buffet lunch with DXpedition leader Bob Schmieder, KK6EK, and his XYL Martha. This was a small gathering, with Roger, G3KMA and XYL Gill, and Roger, G3LQP, and XYL Beryl attending in addition to myself.

We had a great time swapping DX yarns, and hearing about Bob's plans for Heard Island. Thanks Bren and Ruth.

Mid afternoon, I left with Bob and Martha, and drove them to Heathrow to pick up a hire car which they planned to use for the remainder of their UK stay, until Bob left for Reunion, on the first leg of the journey to Heard Island. This was my chance - half an hour or so with the leader of the DXpedition to one of the most wanted DXCC countries, all to myself! I explained to Bob that I'd be happy if I only made a single QSO, to give me an all time new one, although I had hopes of a minimum of two QSOs, one on SSB and one on CW.

I gave Bob my blank QSL card - Martha thought this was hilarious, and a great piece of initiative - none of the other hams they had been with had thought to do that. I'm sure that Bob didn't take the card with him to Heard, but you never know! I told Bob I hoped to be sending a completed card or two a few weeks later!

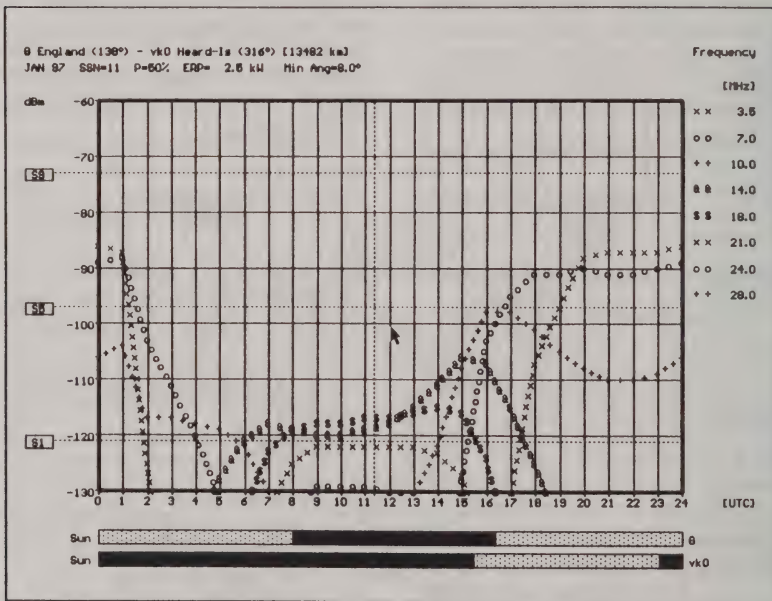


Propagation Prediction

The Miniprop predictions which were published in the January Newsletter led one to believe that VK0IR would be workable only in the afternoon and evening. I had recently been playing around with a program called Propagation Predictor (PP), and the VK0IR operation was the first time that I'd really used it in anger. PP confirmed that the best short path openings on 20m would indeed be in the afternoon, but that there may be propagation from around 07:00z through until 1700z, albeit at weak signal strength. It also predicted that the best time for 15m and 12m would be in the morning (12m very weak, if at all) between 09:00z and 1300. The Miniprop prediction for 15m was for 1600z only, whereas PP showed no propagation at this time. Certainly, the PP predictions of morning propagation were borne out in practice, with very strong signals on weekend mornings on 15m (I wasn't at

home on weekday mornings, so didn't have chance to listen then). Like Miniprop, PP showed no possibility of propagation on 10m. Nevertheless, using the 12m prediction as a guide, I listened very carefully late morning on the second Saturday, and did hear VK0IR pop out from the noise on 10m CW for a few seconds, but not for long enough to work him, unfortunately. Generally, morning signals on 15m and 20m were considerably stronger than predicted by PP. The picture below shows the PP screen display (apologies to 160m buffs, but as I don't operate on 160m, I don't have PP configured to show 160m propagation.) Certainly, I have been impressed with PP, and shall be buying a copy shortly.

Fortunately for all of us, the operation fell between the geomagnetic disturbances of January 10th/11th and the geomagnetic activity just after the DXpedition had ended



VK0IR Short Path Propagation Prediction from G by "Propagation Predictor"

My end of the pile-ups

I didn't have high hopes of making many QSOs with VK0IR, due to my limited antenna set-up (A3S at 11m, and 40/80 trapped dipole at the same height, which is hopeless for working 80m DX, but surprisingly effective on 40m), so my modest target was for a single SSB QSO and a single CW QSO. I initially planned to let the pile-ups subside before making a serious attempt to work VK0IR

Due to a delayed departure from Reunion, the stop at Crozet didn't materialise, resulting in the VK0IR DXpedition starting up a day ahead of schedule, on Tuesday January 14th. I was working at home that afternoon (a coincidence, honest!), so I left the rig on 14.195, listening to the initial QSOs being logged. Signals were S9+ for quite a long period, which boded well for my chances of working them. I couldn't resist giving them a couple of speculative calls (waste of time, really), but didn't give it a serious shot, as I was supposed to be working, and had to go into the salt mine the next morning with a completed project. I never heard VK0IR as strong on 20m as I did that first afternoon. The pile-up was HUGE!

I was again working at home on Thursday afternoon, and again left the rig on 14.195 so that I could listen. The pile-up was as big as ever, and I decided to leave my first serious shot until the weekend.

Friday evening, I arrived home from the salt mine relatively late (around 19:30z) - chatted to the XYL while reading the mail for about 15 minutes, and then made for the shack. I decided to see what was happening on 40m CW, but didn't expect to make a QSO on 40m so early in the DXpedition. I soon found VK0IR pounding away, and listened in his declared listening range. What a din! Wall to wall S9 signals calling when they should, calling when VK0IR was calling, calling when VK0IR was trying to lis-

ten to the station he'd come back to. If I'd had one of those fancy ICOM rigs with a spectrum display, I expect it would have shown a completely solid S9 block of signals. I concluded that there was almost zero chance of determining where VK0IR was listening. Nevertheless, I continued to listen, and eventually found where he was listening - quite a way HF of the declared listening range, with little QRM on his listening QRG. He'd work two or three stations, move up a little, work two or three more. No pile-up here! I fired up the amplifier and gave a call. No luck first time. No luck second time. I moved up to where I thought he'd listen next and called again. He came back! I nearly fell off my chair! Talk about excitement - sheer ecstasy! I shakily responded G3PMR 599 TU - he acknowledged. #296 in the bag! The time of QSO was 20:17z, after spending about 20 minutes in the shack. Not bad! What a great start to the weekend! QSO #1.

Saturday morning - still big pile-ups on 20m SSB, and I found it very hard to determine the listening frequency. I called for a while, but couldn't make it. I couldn't find him on 20m CW, so I QSY'd to 15m. There he was on 15m CW. Called him - he came back after about the 3rd call G3P? I called. Disaster! Something wrong with the key - I couldn't send my call properly - it turned out that the adjustment on one of the paddles had come loose. He came back G3P? - I was struggling to fix the key, and he gave up. I fixed the key and called again three or four QSOs later (heard him work G3WGV in the mean time). G3P? again. Got him this time. QSO #2. Whew! I set up the keyer for future use, and didn't use the paddle again in the entire operation.

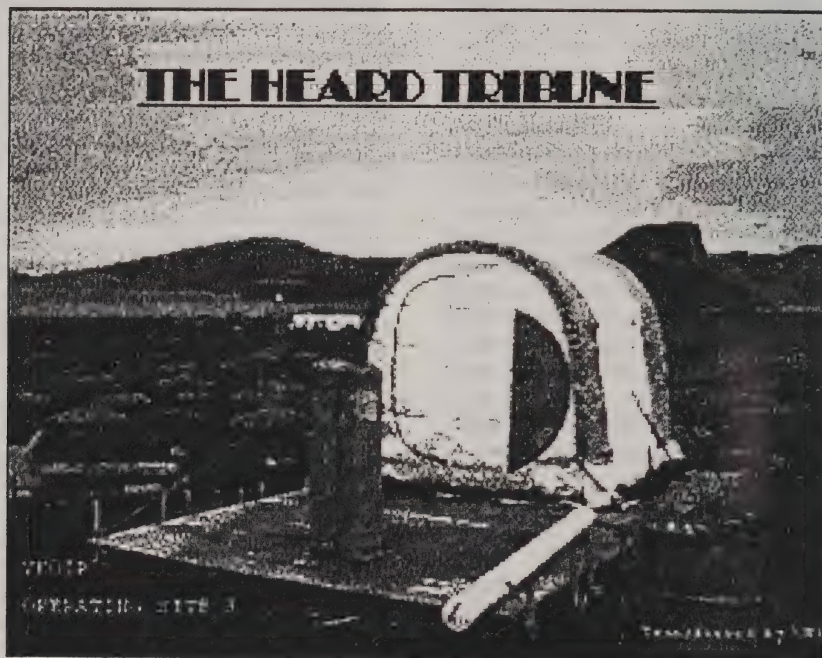
I QSY'd up to 15m SSB, and there he was, much stronger than on CW. I heard Bob G3PJT calling. Bob made it, so I called Bob and asked him to do an audio check. A few adjustments and the audio was fine. I signed off with Bob to go and join the pile-up,

when a local G3 called (hadn't heard him before, but he was only seven miles away). I tried to have a quick QSO, and explained I wanted to work Heard Island. This guy obviously wasn't a DXer, and wouldn't let me go - he wanted to talk about a problem with his A3S. In the end Bob came to my rescue and took over the QSO - thanks Bob.

The G3 has since been to my shack - and

Mike G4PFF and I have hopefully pointed him in the right direction to resolve his problems. He'd never seen any computer aids such as real time logging, packet cluster and propagation prediction, so his eyes were opened somewhat!

I didn't make it that day on 15m SSB, as we had guests for lunch who stayed until late evening, so the shack was out-of-bounds!



Operating Site Three

Sunday - no QSOs in the morning. I was determined to make it through the 20m SSB wall during the afternoon propagation peak. I spent much time listening, and calling when I could find the right spot, but to no avail. Then VK0IR started working by numbers, listening 14.200-14.210, and I thought this would be my chance. However, he only worked 8-10 stations per number, and I still didn't make it. I continued to listen as he worked 3s, 4s, 5s etc whilst doing

odds and ends in the shack. Then came the clue! Although announcing a split of 14200-14.210, he would occasionally say "*there's nobody on 220*". He got through the zeros, and then opened it up to all, still listening 14.200-14.210. I called him on 220, and nailed him on about the third call, at 16:30z. QSO #3. Immediately afterwards, Steve, G4JVG, running 100w to a dipole got him first call, and then a whole string of Gs made it on 220. It pays to listen!

My initial objective was now achieved - worked on both CW and SSB. Still over a week to go!

Eight minutes later (16:38z), I nailed him on 20m CW, first call. QSO #4. There is absolutely no doubt that VK0IR was so much easier to work on CW than on SSB.

I reviewed my position - with the antennas I had up, I still needed him on 15m SSB and 40m SSB - I considered that I didn't really have a chance on 80m with my antenna, and 10m wasn't likely to show any propagation. 15m would have to wait until the following weekend. 40m was still generating huge pile-ups.

Tuesday - I had a Butternut that I hadn't used for quite a while. I'd managed to work 3Y0PI on 30m with it, so why not VK0IR? Wednesday morning, got up early, got the ladder out and disconnected the feeder from the trapped dipole, connected it to the Butternut, and stood the Butternut on the ground, leaning against the guttering of the house. No radials. Very crude!

Wednesday evening - I could hear VK0IR on the Butternut OK - this was a promising start! I called for about an hour, but didn't make it.

Thursday evening - nailed him on 30m in about 10 minutes. QSO #5. I decided to leave the Butternut connected, to see if I could make a 17m QSO on Saturday morning. This was a BIG MISTAKE.

Friday evening - I still needed a 40m SSB QSO. I heard VK0IR in the noise (using the Butternut). He was calling CQ. I quickly established where he was listening - just the occasional station going back. There was no pile-up! I called and called - didn't even raise a QRZ?? The Butternut simply wasn't up to it. I *know* I would have worked him with the dipole. It was pitch black outside, and simply too dangerous to do a tricky operation precariously perched at the top of a

ladder. One QSO lost! I never heard VK0IR on 40m SSB for the remainder of the operation.

Saturday morning, and they were pounding through on 15m SSB. This was my chance for a second SSB QSO. I worked him at 09:43z without much trouble, for QSO #6.

My remote chance of a 10m QSO was likely to be this morning. I spent about two hours listening on 28.024, and on the likely split frequencies. The noise level was, for a change, remarkably low. Suddenly, VK0IR popped out of the noise on 28.024, but seconds later he'd gone again, as quickly as he emerged.

I listened some more, but gave this up as a bad job about 12:00z, and QSY'd to 17m, where I worked VK0IR on CW on the Butternut, relatively easily. QSO #7. I couldn't copy VK0IR on 18MHz SSB using the Butternut, although he was undoubtedly there.

The decision to press the Butternut into service had certainly been worthwhile, having given me two band countries, albeit at the probable cost of a 40m SSB QSO.

That was it for me. Seven QSOs, more than I imagined in my most optimistic dreams. The whole operation was wonderfully exciting, gripping, and just occasionally, frustrating.

What did I learn? Quite a lot:

- ☐ The Propagation Prediction software proved invaluable.
- ☐ I really must do something about my 80m antenna.
- ☐ I need more feeders so that I can have more antennas available at once.

Listening really does pay off - not really a lesson, but certainly confirmation of what I already knew.

THE HEAD TRIBUNE



Glenn, W0GJ, with the tractor, which was used to move the heavy stuff

The DX end of the pile-up

It is hard to put into words what a great operation this has been!

What can one say? Absolutely tremendous operating skills. So professional. Such discipline. Such self control - some of the operating practices of the calling stations must have stretched the VK0IR operator's patience to the limit. Such team work.

The most impressive thing for me was the lengths that the team went to to ensure just about everyone had a chance to make those badly needed QSOs.

Their refusal to go to the next QSO until the callsign of the current QSO was definitely ascertained was a real help to the little pistols - the operators would persevere, for as long as it took, to dig out the calls.

Their directed calls to difficult areas, such as W6/W7, VE6, VE7, as well as the very north of Europe (Scandinavia) helped many to make a QSO in difficult circumstances.

Likewise, their specific listening on US general class frequencies must have helped a number of those guys/gals to make it.

Towards the end of the operation, ON4UN requested those who still needed a QSO for an all time new one to let him know by Email. I understand that skeds were then set up for those who responded. What service!

80,673 QSOs - a new world record for a DXpedition which says a lot about the organisation, planning, operating skills, antennas and equipment.

Chatting to Bob, KK6EK, on Boxing Day, about the likely weather conditions, he indi-

cated that the temperature would most likely be close to zero, but the wind chill factor from the Antarctic winds that prevail there would make it feel very cold. In actual fact, I think that on the whole, the team were quite fortunate with the weather conditions. Cold winds were experienced for some of the time, especially right at the end of the DXpedition, when dismantling had to start early, due to 90km/h winds and a wind chill of -14°, but on the whole my impression is that they got off lightly.

Here is a quote from Bob, KK6EK, that sums up his feelings towards the end of the DXpedition, and describes Heard Island much better than I ever could:

"My address at this moment is #1 Heard Island. Around me are three men, each silently exchanging a series of electromagnetic pulses with another human more than 5000 miles away. To all outward appearances, nothing is happening. The elephant seals and penguins in the nearby mossy hummocks are unaffected. The albatrosses and skuas continue their bobbing and casual foraging. In the distance, a volcano vents steam, and the wind pounds in violent gusts. Heard Island continues as it always has, unaware that at this moment on this spot, a world record is being set. As I write these words, we are logging our 80,000th radio contact, more than any other amateur radio operation has ever logged.

In the near future, the dry statistics of the VK0IR operation will come out, and they will show that essentially every amateur radio record associated with DXpeditions has been broken. This is all the more satisfying, if not surprising, because it was done at the bottom of the sunspot cycle, during a time when two of the nine amateur bands were almost completely unusable. What the statistics will not show is what it has been like being here, doing this, in this place, at #1 Heard Island. I will try to capture for you some of my experiences and impressions,

before they get lost in the sea of statistics and the dim recesses of imperfect memory.

Heard Island has all the feeling of an outpost on another planet. Even after 2 weeks of living here, I am awe-struck by the feeling of remoteness. There is little here that is familiar to temperate suburban backyard living. We constantly hear the deep throaty roar of huge animals hidden in the hummocks nearby. Sometimes we practically trip over them walking at night. The elephant seals stare at us with huge flat dark eyes that track up and down our bodies as we step around them. The brown skuas fly at us like torpedo bombers, veering off at the last moment, inches from our heads. The grass grows on the tops of mounds of moist red earth about 2 feet high, and everywhere there are gigantic pillows of green moss that is spongy to our step. Everywhere the ground is littered with bones of birds and mammals that glow bright white against the black volcanic sand and rock.

In the distance to the North, we see the tip of a volcanic spire, an erosional remnant that is now home to thousands of macaroni penguins. In front of the tip, there are numerous rock arches that are the roofs of lava tubes, half filled with sediment and harbouring a wet, mossy cave like ecosystem. To the West is the high glaciated peak on the Lauren's Peninsula, and perhaps a dozen ribbon waterfalls that blow into so much mist after falling perhaps a thousand feet. To the South we see a vast flat plain, a sand pile a mile across, between two great crescent beaches. The plain is so low that when the wind blows, it floods the plain, water pouring from one bay to the other. Several colonies of penguins, each containing several hundred birds, move almost imperceptibly around this plain. Above this flat expanse towers a titanic volcano, Big Ben, its hot crest 9000 ft. high. Steam issues from a blackened vent on its west side, creating a small cloud that pales into insignificance compared with the huge, nearly omnipresent

stratus layers that almost constantly envelope the summit. To the East, on a clear day, you can see the gigantic ice falls, some thousands of feet high, and the business end of the glaciers as they fall into the sea.

The village we have erected at #1 Heard Island provides quite adequate comfort and security. It consists of four 12x20 ft aluminium frame shelters, with reinforced insulated plastic skins. The galley shelter has a 3-stove, 2-sink kitchen, and a dining room that seats 12. The Comms shelter contains the Pacsat and Inmarsat, and an operating tent with 3 positions and space for computers. The two dormitories each sleep 10 men, each with his own bunk and locker. The four shelters are connected by a wooden walkway, so it is possible to move between them in your stocking feet without getting wet or dirty. At the end of the walkway is a genuine outhouse, deluxe model, complete with urinal, sink, mirror, and paper towel dispenser. Away from the village, perhaps a quarter mile distant, are the other operating shelters, with the appropriate addresses #2 and #3 Heard Island. Connected to these 3 sites are 24 antennas, 12 of which are grouped into 4-square vertical arrays for 40, 80, and 160m.

Except for our bizarre surroundings, life at #1 Heard Island is somewhat routine. Every day we post the operating assignments for the 5 stations, and take our shifts. We have little to do but operate the radios and capture the experience of being here. The team has an extraordinary amount of technical expertise: logistics, satcoms, RTTY, CW, computers, antennas, electrical power, natural science. Some are good at fixing things, some are good at cooking, some are good at computers. We have a small tractor and wagon to drive heavy loads around. We run our seven Honda generators continuously, providing more than 30 kW of power. When off-duty, we sit in the dining area and trade stories, mostly about the band openings. Every day we tally the progress. By

this morning we had logged 77,300 Qs; we were certain to break 80,000 by morning.

Besides the radio operations, there are other routines. Now and then we send or receive a fax. Sometimes the phone rings and we answer 'Heard Island, good evening.' Usually there is a pause, then so-and-so is informed that there is a phone call for him. At this moment one person is talking with his wife in Minnesota. The logs are uploaded every day over Pacsat, and posted on the Internet servers. An electronic camera captures still photos that are uploaded and posted on the web pages. Every day we receive many pages of detailed comments from the pilots, including criticism of the operations the previous night.

Two days ago three companions and I made an attempt to reach a shelter on the other side of the peninsula, an all-day walk to get there, with the return planned for the second day. What we saw amazed us: cobble beaches that produce a deafening roar when the surf washes out; penguins jumping on the backs of elephant seals apparently for fun; a playground of fur seals frolicking with their children; an albatross killing a live penguin by dragging it into the water and drowning it; a newly dead penguin being skeletonized in 2 hours by skuas; a waterfall running under a glacial fragment and emerging below into another waterfall. When the terrain became impassable, we retraced our steps and saw the whole scene again from a different perspective. But perhaps the most astonishing accomplishment of the VK0IR team will not appear in the statistics, or even in the descriptions of the events that will follow: the 20 individuals, representing 9 different national cultures, have worked together harmoniously, without the slightest hint of animosity or territoriality that usually characterises these projects. In my 20 years of leading expeditions to remote and difficult places, this is by far the finest team I have ever had the pleasure to work with. You will hear this theme again

and again as the other individuals have the chance to tell their particular stories: the VK0IR team must have set some sort of record for genuine respect and mutual pleasure in participating in this project. In fairness, I should add that a considerable portion of the technology that we have used here, such as uploading logs to web servers and getting pilot feedback by e-mail, was developed on the 1995 XR0Y Easter Island expedition, so in some sense the team is even larger than the 20 men here now.

In about 15 hours, the VK0IR DXpedition will shut down, and the team will have about 36 hours to get ready for the helicopters that will lift us and our 30 tons of gear to the ship. After that, a short stop at Kerguelen Island, and then the long sail back to Reunion and home. It's beginning to feel like it's time. I am sure I will never again see this place. This place will be unaffected by our visit. But trust me, for us it has been an E-ticket ride into a fantasy world."



AI K3VN with one of the Alphas

The Technology

First, I must eat humble pie. In one of my editorials (for new members, I was Editor of CDXC Newsletter for three years before

Bren took over in July 1996) prior to the XR0Y operation, I made some fairly negative remarks about the amount of technology that was to be used to support the operation. I was away on vacation when the DXpedi-

tion actually took place, so I didn't experience the impact that such technology would make until the Heard Island DXpedition.

I was wrong!! For me, apart from making the QSOs, and the outstanding operating by the team, it was the technology that added a new dimension to this DXpedition.

I've only recently become operational on Internet from the home QTH. About two weeks before VK0IR became operational, I subscribed to the DX and Heard reflectors for the first time. Initially, I was definitely unimpressed! The behaviour of many (mainly US) contributors was at about the same level as the worst European operators and kHz kops in the pile-ups. I almost unsubscribed right away. I'm glad I didn't. For me, during the operation of VK0IR, the reflector helped me feel part of the team. The bulletins put out by John, ON4UN, kept us all informed of what was going on on Heard Island, how the equipment was performing, what bands were operational, what the weather was like and so on.

But, for me, the most intriguing part of the reflector was reading the mail from other subscribers - hearing the frustration, the excitement, the exhilaration, the despair, the elation as that elusive QSO was achieved or not. The stories about lengths people were going to to make that extra QSO were fascinating, like the story about a US amateur who was just about to give up 30m as a lost cause, when his nine year old daughter encouraged him and helped him build a new antenna in the rain - he made the QSO soon afterwards. It was gripping stuff; I read every message, which averaged around 1 hour per day. It was time well spent!

Another great opportunity that the reflector gave was to be able to give direct feedback to the team. 99% of the feedback was positive - I've never seen so much praise and congratulations (all of it deserved) heaped on a DXpedition team.

The provision of web-based and Email-based log servers was also a great boon. The ability to check that your QSO was indeed in the log, within a couple of days of making the QSO, was superb. It must have really contributed to cutting down the dupes, and given even more people a chance to make a QSO. If you found that your QSO wasn't in the log (which never happened in my case), knowing that gave you another chance of a QSO. Much better than getting your QSL returned with the dreaded "sorry, not in log".

The Heard Tribune, on the Heard Island web page, gave daily news and pictures from Heard Island. Some of them are reproduced in this article. The Heard Tribune was produced by Don Greenbaum, N1DG (ex WB2DND).

I'm now a convert - a firm believer that the integration of this sort of technology with a DXpedition operation is a major enhancement. If you didn't experience it, you missed such a lot.

Support

This DXpedition must surely also go down as the best supported operation ever.

The pilot concept was not new, but on this DXpedition was certainly most effective. Our thanks are due to all of them (ON4UN, N1DG, W0EK, K0EU, W4WW, W2IJ, JH1ROJ), but especially to John Devoldere, ON4UN, who put in typically eighteen hours per day throughout the DXpedition on all sorts of support activities. Thanks John.

The VK0IR team were also well supported by the helicopter pilot and mechanic, Ton-Ton and Pascal, the crew of the Marion Dufresne, and the French Authorities.

We mustn't forget Lyndon, VE7TCP, who did such a good job with the Web site and Email log server, and Don (N1DG) and Rob (PA3BXR) who ran the web log servers.

In Conclusion

The VK0IR DXpedition will surely go down in DXing history as the one that broke the records and set the standards for the future.

This was something special, an epic. It certainly wasn't an 'amateur' operation. For me, it was an experience I shall remember and savour for a long time.

Our thanks are due to the team and all their support personnel for a job remarkably well

done.

The critics who, only a few months ago, were saying it was a waste of time and money to mount such an operation at the trough of the sunspot cycle have been confounded, and, I am sure, silenced.

Now let's look forward to the next one - Scarborough Reef in May, or possibly P5 before then? It's certainly going to be a fascinating year for HF DXing!

See you in the pile-ups. 73 Alan G3PMR



The team on the way home - on the Marion Dufresne - off Reunion

SUPPORT CDXC

VK0IR & CDXC - HOW DID WE DO?

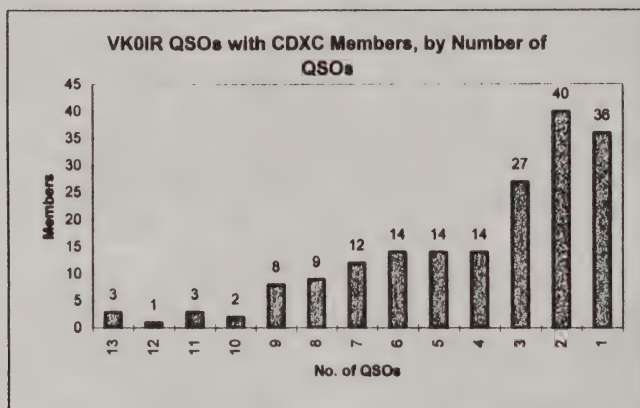
Alan Jubb, G3PMR

With an emailable VK0IR log server run by Lyndon, VE7TCP, it occurred to me that this would be a great way to get some statistics about how CDXC members had done in working/attempting to work VK0IR.

Of course, with 300+ members, I didn't just send off a large database query - I thought it might be prudent to ask Lyndon's permission/advice first! Just as well that I did, as it turns out that the server can only handle 50 callsigns at one go, so I had to send multiple

queries. I used the membership list as of February 3rd, which contained 325 members, and after having removed our SWL members, it turned out we had 316 licensed members at that time. The VK0IR log at the time I queried it was up to date to Monday 27th January at 12:39z, which I think was the time that the big switch was pulled on Heard Island.

So, how did we all do? The first statistic is that of the 316 licensed members, 183 had one or more QSOs, i.e., for one reason or another, 42% of members didn't make it. I'm rather surprised about that. A total of 739 QSOs was made, distributed as follows:



The theoretical maximum number of QSOs, excluding satellite, is 9 on CW, 8 on SSB, and 1 on RTTY, making 18 in all. Congratulations to Roger G3KMA, Mauro I1JQJ and Bob G3ZEM, for their fine achievement in making thirteen QSOs.

Here is the detailed breakdown of the above graph, by call sign.

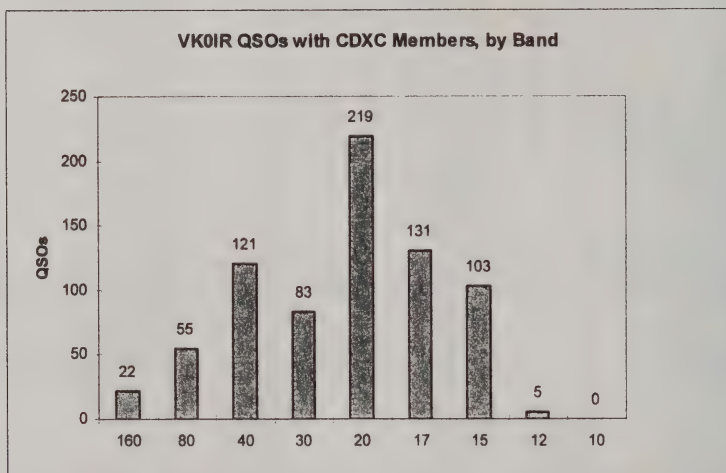
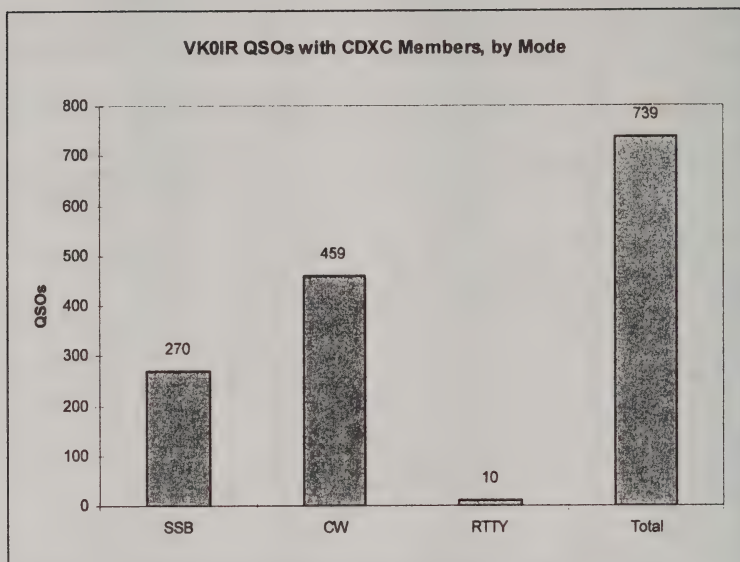
G3KMA	13	G3GAF	9	G4SOF	8
G3ZEM	13	G3RZP	9	G4SOZ	8
I1JQJ	13	G3SNN	9	G4UJS	8
G3SJX	12	G4LVQ	9	VK5WO	8
G3NAS	11	GM3BQA	9	G0LMX	7
G3VKW	11	LA6LHA	9	G3NKC	7
G4LJF	11	G3GIQ	8	G3PMR	7
G3HSR	10	G3OZF	8	G3TMA	7
GW3JXN	10	G3PJT	8	G3TXF	7
G0OIL	9	G3PLP	8	G3YVH	7
G0WAZ	9	G3SED	8	G4BUE	7

G4DBN	7	G3AAE	3	G4PEL	2
G4ODV	7	G3BBR	3	G4RVW	2
GI0NWG	7	G3CCO	3	G4SOK	2
HB9RG	7	G3COJ	3	G4TSH	2
WB2YQH	7	G3IZD	3	G4XTA	2
DJ8NK	6	G3KDB	3	G6LX	2
G0OPB	6	G3KNU	3	G8JM	2
G3ALI	6	G3MLO	3	GM3TRI	2
G3KWK	6	G3PFS	3	GM4XLU	2
G3MXJ	6	G3RIR	3	GW0ANA	2
G3RBP	6	G3RVM	3	HS0/G4UAV	2
G3XTT	6	G3USX	3	LX1DM	2
G3ZBA	6	G3VXZ	3	PA3GIO	2
G3ZSS	6	G4AZN	3	VE6DXX	2
G4DQW	6	G4DYO	3	G0AIX	1
GW4BLE	6	G4IUF	3	G0BBV	1
K3ZO	6	G4OJH	3	G0EHO	1
ON4IZ	6	G4PDQ	3	G2ART	1
VK9NS	6	G4ZVJ	3	G3CAQ	1
G3LNS	5	GI3FJX	3	G3DPX	1
G3NUG	5	GI4OPH	3	G3EZZ	1
G3RGD	5	GJ3LFJ	3	G3HCT	1
G3RTE	5	GW3ARS	3	G3IGW	1
G3VMW	5	GW3CDP	3	G3IQF	1
G4ALR	5	G0IVZ	2	G3JQJ	1
G4DJZ	5	G0NYL	2	G3LOJ	1
G4MVA	5	G0OFE	2	G3NKQ	1
G4OWT	5	G0TYV	2	G3OFW	1
G4TNB	5	G0UHK	2	G3POG	1
G4XRX	5	G0WHP	2	G3SWH	1
GI0TJJ	5	G3HQH	2	G3SXW	1
GM3PPE	5	G3HQX	2	G3TLG	1
GM3YTS	5	G3JJZ	2	G3UOF	1
G0KRL	4	G3KLL	2	G3WGN	1
G0ORH	4	G3KYF	2	G3XON	1
G3AEZ	4	G3LHJ	2	G3YBO	1
G3ESY	4	G3LUW	2	G3ZAY	1
G3GHY	4	G3LZQ	2	G4CMT	1
G3HTA	4	G3MCN	2	G4FEU	1
G3OCA	4	G3NBC	2	G4GMW	1
G3VXJ	4	G3NKS	2	G4PFF	1
G3WGV	4	G3NOH	2	G4SVB	1
G4BUO	4	G3SMP	2	G4VXT	1
G4CCZ	4	G3UML	2	GM4UZY	1
GM0EGI	4	G3VDL	2	GW0SLM	1
GW4BVJ	4	G4CJY	2	GW3HGJ	1
HB9KT	4	G4DJX	2	GW3NXX	1
G0APV	3	G4IDL	2	J16KVR	1
G0LRJ	3	G4JVG	2	NN2C	1
G0MMI	3	G4OBK	2	ZS1FJ	1

Analysis by Band/Mode

The following graphs give a detailed breakdown, by mode and by band. It's no real surprise to see that nobody made it on 10m - nice to see that five members made it on

12m - well done to them. Congratulations also to the 22 who succeeded on Top Band. CDXC members obviously don't have a great deal of interest in RTTY, with only 10 QSOs being logged in all.



CDXC SUPPORTED VK0IR

Are You in the Log?

Finally, here is a condensed reproduction of the entire CDXC Member's QSOs as reported by the VE7TCP log server. Calls with no QSOs have been deleted. If you

think you made a QSO that's not listed, please don't blame me! You either didn't make the QSO, worked a Slim, or have a busted call in the log. Sorry!

DJ8NK	15	SSB	G0UHK	30	CW	G3GIQ	15	CW	G3KWK	15	CW
DJ8NK	20	CW	G0UHK	40	CW	G3GIQ	17	CW	G3KWK	17	CW
DJ8NK	20	RTTY	G0WAZ	15	SSB	G3GIQ	17	SSB	G3KWK	20	CW
DJ8NK	20	SSB	G0WAZ	17	CW	G3GIQ	20	CW	G3KWK	20	SSB
DJ8NK	30	CW	G0WAZ	17	SSB	G3GIQ	20	SSB	G3KWK	80	CW
DJ8NK	40	CW	G0WAZ	20	CW	G3GIQ	30	CW	G3KWK	160	CW
G0AIX	80	SSB	G0WAZ	20	SSB	G3GIQ	80	CW	G3KYF	20	CW
G0APV	15	SSB	G0WAZ	30	CW	G3GIQ	160	CW	G3KYF	20	SSB
G0APV	17	SSB	G0WAZ	40	CW	G3HCT	17	CW	G3LHJ	17	CW
G0APV	20	SSB	G0WAZ	40	SSB	G3HQH	17	CW	G3LHJ	20	CW
G0BBV	20	SSB	G0WAZ	80	SSB	G3HQH	20	CW	G3LNS	15	CW
G0EHO	40	CW	G0WHP	17	SSB	G3HQX	30	CW	G3LNS	17	CW
G0IVZ	20	CW	G0WHP	20	SSB	G3HQX	40	CW	G3LNS	30	CW
G0IVZ	40	CW	G2ART	20	SSB	G3HSR	15	CW	G3LNS	40	CW
G0KRL	17	CW	G3AAE	15	CW	G3HSR	15	SSB	G3LNS	160	CW
G0KRL	17	SSB	G3AAE	20	CW	G3HSR	17	CW	G3LOJ	20	SSB
G0KRL	20	RTTY	G3AAE	20	SSB	G3HSR	17	SSB	G3LUW	17	SSB
G0KRL	30	CW	G3AEZ	15	SSB	G3HSR	20	CW	G3LUW	20	CW
G0LMX	15	CW	G3AEZ	20	CW	G3HSR	20	SSB	G3LZQ	20	CW
G0LMX	17	CW	G3AEZ	20	SSB	G3HSR	30	CW	G3LZQ	40	SSB
G0LMX	20	CW	G3AEZ	80	CW	G3HSR	40	SSB	G3MCN	17	SSB
G0LMX	30	CW	G3ALI	17	CW	G3HSR	80	CW	G3MCN	20	SSB
G0LMX	40	CW	G3ALI	20	CW	G3HSR	80	SSB	G3MLO	20	SSB
G0LMX	40	SSB	G3ALI	20	SSB	G3HTA	17	SSB	G3MLO	40	CW
G0LMX	80	CW	G3ALI	30	CW	G3HTA	20	CW	G3MLO	40	SSB
G0LRJ	15	SSB	G3ALI	40	CW	G3HTA	20	SSB	G3MXJ	15	CW
G0LRJ	20	SSB	G3ALI	40	SSB	G3HTA	30	CW	G3MXJ	17	CW
G0LRJ	40	SSB	G3BBR	17	CW	G3IGW	40	CW	G3MXJ	20	CW
G0MMI	20	CW	G3BBR	20	CW	G3IQF	17	CW	G3MXJ	30	CW
G0MMI	20	SSB	G3BBR	40	CW	G3IZD	17	CW	G3MXJ	40	CW
G0MMI	30	CW	G3CAQ	20	SSB	G3IZD	20	CW	G3MXJ	160	CW
G0NYL	20	CW	G3CCO	20	CW	G3IZD	30	CW	G3NAS	15	CW
G0NYL	40	CW	G3CCO	30	CW	G3JJZ	30	CW	G3NAS	15	SSB
G0OFE	15	SSB	G3CCO	40	CW	G3JJZ	40	CW	G3NAS	17	CW
G0OFE	20	SSB	G3COJ	15	SSB	G3JJZ	40	CW	G3NAS	17	SSB
G0OIL	15	CW	G3COJ	17	SSB	G3KDB	17	CW	G3NAS	20	SSB
G0OIL	17	CW	G3COJ	20	SSB	G3KDB	30	CW	G3NAS	30	CW
G0OIL	17	SSB	G3DPX	20	CW	G3KDB	40	CW	G3NAS	40	CW
G0OIL	20	CW	G3ESY	17	CW	G3KLL	17	SSB	G3NAS	40	SSB
G0OIL	20	RTTY	G3ESY	20	CW	G3KLL	20	SSB	G3NAS	80	CW
G0OIL	20	SSB	G3ESY	20	SSB	G3KMA	12	CW	G3NAS	80	SSB
G0OIL	30	CW	G3ESY	40	CW	G3KMA	15	CW	G3NAS	160	CW
G0OIL	40	CW	G3EZZ	40	CW	G3KMA	15	SSB	G3NBC	15	SSB
G0OIL	40	SSB	G3GAF	15	CW	G3KMA	17	CW	G3NBC	20	SSB
G0OPB	15	CW	G3GAF	17	CW	G3KMA	17	SSB	G3NKC	15	CW
G0OPB	17	CW	G3GAF	17	SSB	G3KMA	20	CW	G3NKC	17	CW
G0OPB	20	CW	G3GAF	20	CW	G3KMA	20	SSB	G3NKC	17	SSB
G0OPB	30	CW	G3GAF	20	SSB	G3KMA	30	CW	G3NKC	20	CW
G0OPB	40	CW	G3GAF	30	CW	G3KMA	40	CW	G3NKC	30	CW
G0OPB	80	CW	G3GAF	40	CW	G3KMA	40	SSB	G3NKC	40	SSB
G0ORH	15	CW	G3GAF	40	SSB	G3KMA	80	CW	G3NKC	160	CW
G0ORH	20	CW	G3GAF	80	CW	G3KMA	80	SSB	G3NKQ	30	CW
G0ORH	20	SSB	G3GHY	15	CW	G3KMA	160	CW	G3NKS	20	CW
G0ORH	40	CW	G3GHY	17	CW	G3KNU	20	CW	G3NKS	30	CW
G0TYV	17	CW	G3GHY	30	CW	G3KNU	30	CW	G3NOH	17	CW
G0TYV	40	CW	G3GHY	40	CW	G3KNU	40	CW	G3NOH	30	CW

G3NUG	15	SSB	G3RVM	20	SSB	G3VDL	20	CW	G3ZSS	17	CW
G3NUG	17	SSB	G3RVM	40	CW	G3VDL	40	CW	G3ZSS	17	SSB
G3NUG	20	SSB	G3RZP	15	CW	G3VKW	15	CW	G3ZSS	20	CW
G3NUG	40	SSB	G3RZP	15	SSB	G3VKW	15	SSB	G3ZSS	40	CW
G3NUG	80	SSB	G3RZP	17	CW	G3VKW	17	CW	G3ZSS	40	SSB
G3OCA	15	CW	G3RZP	20	SSB	G3VKW	17	SSB	G3ZSS	80	SSB
G3OCA	17	CW	G3RZP	30	CW	G3VKW	20	CW	G4ALR	17	CW
G3OCA	20	CW	G3RZP	40	CW	G3VKW	20	RTTY	G4ALR	20	CW
G3OCA	20	SSB	G3RZP	80	CW	G3VKW	20	SSB	G4ALR	30	CW
G3OFW	160	CW	G3RZP	80	SSB	G3VKW	30	CW	G4ALR	40	CW
G3OZF	17	CW	G3RZP	160	CW	G3VKW	40	CW	G4ALR	160	CW
G3OZF	17	SSB	G3SED	15	CW	G3VKW	40	SSB	G4AZN	15	CW
G3OZF	20	CW	G3SED	20	CW	G3VKW	80	SSB	G4AZN	20	CW
G3OZF	20	RTTY	G3SED	30	CW	G3VMW	17	CW	G4AZN	20	SSB
G3OZF	20	SSB	G3SED	40	CW	G3VMW	20	CW	G4BUE	15	CW
G3OZF	30	CW	G3SED	40	SSB	G3VMW	30	CW	G4BUE	17	CW
G3OZF	40	CW	G3SED	80	CW	G3VMW	40	CW	G4BUE	20	CW
G3OZF	80	CW	G3SED	80	SSB	G3VMW	80	CW	G4BUE	30	CW
G3PFS	15	SSB	G3SED	160	CW	G3VXJ	15	CW	G4BUE	40	CW
G3PFS	17	SSB	G3SJX	15	CW	G3VXJ	20	CW	G4BUE	80	CW
G3PFS	20	SSB	G3SJX	15	SSB	G3VXJ	30	CW	G4BUE	160	CW
G3PJT	15	CW	G3SJX	17	CW	G3VXJ	40	CW	G4BUO	15	CW
G3PJT	15	SSB	G3SJX	17	SSB	G3VXZ	15	SSB	G4BUO	20	CW
G3PJT	17	CW	G3SJX	20	CW	G3VXZ	17	SSB	G4BUO	30	CW
G3PJT	20	CW	G3SJX	20	SSB	G3VXZ	20	SSB	G4BUO	40	CW
G3PJT	20	SSB	G3SJX	30	CW	G3WGN	80	SSB	G4CCZ	17	SSB
G3PJT	30	CW	G3SJX	40	CW	G3WGV	15	CW	G4CCZ	20	CW
G3PJT	40	CW	G3SJX	40	SSB	G3WGV	17	CW	G4CCZ	20	SSB
G3PJT	80	CW	G3SJX	80	CW	G3WGV	30	CW	G4CCZ	40	SSB
G3PLP	15	CW	G3SJX	80	SSB	G3WGV	40	CW	G4CJY	15	CW
G3PLP	15	SSB	G3SJX	160	CW	G3XON	20	SSB	G4CJY	20	CW
G3PLP	17	CW	G3SMP	15	SSB	G3XTT	12	CW	G4CMT	20	SSB
G3PLP	17	SSB	G3SMP	20	SSB	G3XTT	17	CW	G4DBN	17	CW
G3PLP	20	CW	G3SNN	15	CW	G3XTT	17	SSB	G4DBN	20	CW
G3PLP	20	SSB	G3SNN	15	SSB	G3XTT	30	CW	G4DBN	30	CW
G3PLP	30	CW	G3SNN	17	CW	G3XTT	80	CW	G4DBN	40	CW
G3PLP	40	SSB	G3SNN	20	CW	G3XTT	160	CW	G4DBN	40	SSB
G3PMR	15	CW	G3SNN	20	SSB	G3YBO	20	SSB	G4DBN	80	CW
G3PMR	15	SSB	G3SNN	40	CW	G3YVH	15	CW	G4DBN	160	CW
G3PMR	17	CW	G3SNN	40	SSB	G3YVH	17	CW	G4DJX	40	CW
G3PMR	20	CW	G3SNN	80	SSB	G3YVH	17	SSB	G4DJX	80	CW
G3PMR	20	SSB	G3SNN	160	CW	G3YVH	20	CW	G4DJZ	12	SSB
G3PMR	30	CW	G3SWH	30	CW	G3YVH	20	SSB	G4DJZ	15	SSB
G3PMR	40	CW	G3SXW	40	CW	G3YVH	30	CW	G4DJZ	17	SSB
G3POG	20	CW	G3TLG	20	CW	G3YVH	40	SSB	G4DJZ	20	SSB
G3RBP	15	CW	G3TMA	15	CW	G3ZAY	17	SSB	G4DJZ	40	SSB
G3RBP	20	CW	G3TMA	15	SSB	G3ZBA	17	CW	G4DQW	15	CW
G3RBP	30	CW	G3TMA	20	CW	G3ZBA	17	SSB	G4DQW	20	CW
G3RBP	40	CW	G3TMA	20	SSB	G3ZBA	20	CW	G4DQW	30	CW
G3RBP	80	CW	G3TMA	40	CW	G3ZBA	20	SSB	G4DQW	40	CW
G3RBP	160	CW	G3TMA	40	SSB	G3ZBA	40	CW	G4DQW	40	SSB
G3RGD	15	CW	G3TMA	80	CW	G3ZBA	40	SSB	G4DQW	80	CW
G3RGD	17	CW	G3TXF	15	CW	G3ZEM	12	CW	G4DYO	17	SSB
G3RGD	20	CW	G3TXF	17	CW	G3ZEM	15	CW	G4DYO	20	SSB
G3RGD	30	CW	G3TXF	20	CW	G3ZEM	15	SSB	G4DYO	30	CW
G3RGD	40	CW	G3TXF	20	SSB	G3ZEM	17	CW	G4FEU	20	SSB
G3RIR	20	CW	G3TXF	30	CW	G3ZEM	17	SSB	G4GMW	20	SSB
G3RIR	20	SSB	G3TXF	40	CW	G3ZEM	20	CW	G4IDL	15	CW
G3RIR	40	CW	G3TXF	80	CW	G3ZEM	20	RTTY	G4IDL	20	CW
G3RTE	15	CW	G3UML	20	SSB	G3ZEM	20	SSB	G4IUF	17	CW
G3RTE	17	CW	G3UML	40	SSB	G3ZEM	30	CW	G4IUF	17	SSB
G3RTE	20	CW	G3UOF	30	CW	G3ZEM	40	CW	G4IUF	40	CW
G3RTE	20	SSB	G3USX	17	CW	G3ZEM	40	SSB	G4JVG	17	SSB
G3RTE	30	CW	G3USX	20	CW	G3ZEM	80	CW	G4JVG	20	SSB
G3RVM	20	CW	G3USX	30	CW	G3ZEM	160	CW	G4LJF	15	CW

G4LJF	15	SSB	G4SOZ	30	CW	GM3BQA	20	SSB	I1JQJ	15	CW
G4LJF	17	CW	G4SOZ	40	CW	GM3BQA	30	CW	I1JQJ	15	SSB
G4LJF	17	SSB	G4SOZ	40	SSB	GM3BQA	40	CW	I1JQJ	17	CW
G4LJF	20	CW	G4SVB	20	SSB	GM3BQA	40	SSB	I1JQJ	17	SSB
G4LJF	20	SSB	G4TNB	15	SSB	GM3PPE	20	CW	I1JQJ	20	CW
G4LJF	30	CW	G4TNB	17	CW	GM3PPE	20	SSB	I1JQJ	20	RTTY
G4LJF	40	CW	G4TNB	20	SSB	GM3PPE	30	CW	I1JQJ	20	SSB
G4LJF	40	SSB	G4TNB	30	CW	GM3PPE	40	CW	I1JQJ	30	CW
G4LJF	80	CW	G4TNB	40	SSB	GM3PPE	80	CW	I1JQJ	40	CW
G4LJF	80	SSB	G4TSH	30	CW	GM3TRI	17	CW	I1JQJ	40	SSB
G4LVQ	15	SSB	G4TSH	40	CW	GM3TRI	20	CW	I1JQJ	80	CW
G4LVQ	17	CW	G4UJS	17	SSB	GM3YTS	15	CW	I1JQJ	160	CW
G4LVQ	17	SSB	G4UJS	20	CW	GM3YTS	17	CW	J16KVR	15	SSB
G4LVQ	20	CW	G4UJS	20	RTTY	GM3YTS	20	CW	K3ZO	20	CW
G4LVQ	20	SSB	G4UJS	20	SSB	GM3YTS	30	CW	K3ZO	20	SSB
G4LVQ	30	CW	G4UJS	30	CW	GM3YTS	40	CW	K3ZO	40	CW
G4LVQ	40	CW	G4UJS	40	CW	GM4UZY	20	SSB	K3ZO	40	SSB
G4LVQ	40	SSB	G4UJS	40	SSB	GM4XLU	15	SSB	K3ZO	80	CW
G4LVQ	80	SSB	G4UJS	80	SSB	GM4XLU	20	SSB	K3ZO	80	SSB
G4MVA	17	CW	G4VXT	20	SSB	GW0ANA	15	SSB	LA6LHA	15	CW
G4MVA	20	CW	G4XRX	17	CW	GW0ANA	20	SSB	LA6LHA	15	SSB
G4MVA	30	CW	G4XRX	20	CW	GW0SLM	20	SSB	LA6LHA	17	CW
G4MVA	40	CW	G4XRX	20	SSB	GW3ARS	20	CW	LA6LHA	17	SSB
G4MVA	80	CW	G4XRX	30	CW	GW3ARS	20	SSB	LA6LHA	20	CW
G4OBK	17	CW	G4XRX	40	CW	GW3ARS	30	CW	LA6LHA	30	CW
G4OBK	30	CW	G4XTA	17	SSB	GW3CDP	15	CW	LA6LHA	40	CW
G4ODV	15	CW	G4XTA	20	SSB	GW3CDP	20	CW	LA6LHA	40	SSB
G4ODV	17	CW	G4ZVJ	20	CW	GW3CDP	20	SSB	LA6LHA	80	CW
G4ODV	20	CW	G4ZVJ	30	CW	GW3HGX	17	CW	LX1DM	17	SSB
G4ODV	30	CW	G4ZVJ	40	CW	GW3JXN	15	CW	LX1DM	20	SSB
G4ODV	40	CW	G6LX	20	CW	GW3JXN	15	SSB	NN2C	20	SSB
G4ODV	80	CW	G6LX	20	SSB	GW3JXN	17	CW	ON4IZ	15	CW
G4ODV	160	CW	G8JM	20	CW	GW3JXN	17	SSB	ON4IZ	15	SSB
G4OJH	17	SSB	G8JM	20	SSB	GW3JXN	20	CW	ON4IZ	20	CW
G4OJH	20	SSB	G10NWX	15	CW	GW3JXN	20	SSB	ON4IZ	20	SSB
G4OJH	40	SSB	G10NWX	17	CW	GW3JXN	30	CW	ON4IZ	40	CW
G4OWT	15	CW	G10NWX	17	SSB	GW3JXN	40	CW	ON4IZ	80	CW
G4OWT	15	SSB	G10NWX	20	CW	GW3JXN	80	CW	PA3GIO	17	SSB
G4OWT	20	CW	G10NWX	20	RTTY	GW3JXN	160	CW	PA3GIO	20	SSB
G4OWT	20	SSB	G10NWX	30	CW	GW3NXX	20	SSB	VE6DXX	20	CW
G4OWT	40	SSB	G10NWX	40	CW	GW4BLE	17	CW	VE6DXX	40	CW
G4PDQ	17	CW	GI0TJJ	15	CW	GW4BLE	17	SSB	VK5WO	15	CW
G4PDQ	20	CW	GI0TJJ	17	CW	GW4BLE	20	CW	VK5WO	15	SSB
G4PDQ	30	CW	GI0TJJ	20	CW	GW4BLE	20	SSB	VK5WO	17	CW
G4PEL	40	SSB	GI0TJJ	20	SSB	GW4BLE	30	CW	VK5WO	17	SSB
G4PEL	80	SSB	GI0TJJ	30	CW	GW4BLE	40	CW	VK5WO	20	CW
G4PFF	20	SSB	GI3FJX	17	CW	GW4BVJ	15	CW	VK5WO	20	SSB
G4RVW	17	CW	GI3FJX	20	CW	GW4BVJ	20	CW	VK5WO	30	CW
G4RVW	20	SSB	GI3FJX	30	CW	GW4BVJ	30	CW	VK5WO	80	SSB
G4SOF	15	SSB	GI4OPH	15	CW	GW4BVJ	40	CW	VK9NS	15	CW
G4SOF	17	CW	GI4OPH	20	CW	HB9KT	17	CW	VK9NS	15	SSB
G4SOF	17	SSB	GI4OPH	20	SSB	HB9KT	20	CW	VK9NS	17	CW
G4SOF	20	CW	GJ3LFJ	15	SSB	HB9KT	20	RTTY	VK9NS	17	SSB
G4SOF	20	SSB	GJ3LFJ	17	SSB	HB9KT	30	CW	VK9NS	20	CW
G4SOF	30	CW	GJ3LFJ	20	SSB	HB9RG	15	CW	VK9NS	20	SSB
G4SOF	40	SSB	GM0EGI	15	SSB	HB9RG	15	SSB	WB2YQH	15	CW
G4SOF	80	SSB	GM0EGI	17	SSB	HB9RG	17	CW	WB2YQH	17	CW
G4SOK	15	SSB	GM0EGI	20	CW	HB9RG	17	SSB	WB2YQH	20	CW
G4SOK	20	SSB	GM0EGI	20	SSB	HB9RG	20	SSB	WB2YQH	20	SSB
G4SOZ	15	SSB	GM3BQA	15	CW	HB9RG	80	SSB	WB2YQH	30	CW
G4SOZ	17	CW	GM3BQA	15	SSB	HB9RG	160	CW	WB2YQH	40	CW
G4SOZ	17	SSB	GM3BQA	17	CW	HS0G4UAV	15	SSB	WB2YQH	80	CW
G4SOZ	20	CW	GM3BQA	17	SSB	HS0G4UAV	20	SSB	ZS1FJ	20	SSB
G4SOZ	20	SSB	GM3BQA	20	CW	I1JQJ	12	SSB			

BEST LAID PLANS....

By Brian Devlin, **GM0EGI**

I started my preparations for working VK0IR at the beginning of December, 1996. I read all the information regarding start dates, propagation predictions, operating frequencies, etc., and I came to the conclusion that I would be struggling to work this new one.

All the published information indicated that the higher bands were only going to be open to Heard Island when I was at work, therefore the lower bands looked like my best bet.

I set about sorting out an inverted 'L' for top band, which I hoped would work OK on 80m & 10m through the ATU. I had buried about 600' of radials during the summer with the intention of erecting a top band antenna and now seemed like a good time to do it. I also had a full size G5RV in inverted 'V' configuration with the apex at 55' AGL, running approx. north-south and a full size 40m loop, which I had made for working the 3Y0PI DXpedition.

I had been having some trouble with my HF beam, (4-el KLM) with a high SWR on 10m and 20m, so with the help of Eddie, GM4XLU, I took the beam down to check it.

We discovered a loose capacitor strap on the front driven element. We cleaned and tightened all the bolts, nuts and screws and then checked it with Eddie's MFJ SWR analyser (a wonderful machine). We put the beam back on my 60' tower and went to the shack to test it on air. The first contact was with an EW8 station on 20m, who gave me a 5 x 9 + 40db report (120 watts out).

I said to Eddie, *"at least the beam is working, but I am not sure I will hear VK0IR on the higher bands"* as I would be working every day that they were on (yes even the

weekends!)

A few days before the DXpedition was supposed to start, my copy of CDXC newsletter dropped through the door, I quickly checked for VK0IR Information and on page 22 was the "Fearless Forecast". The times were not going to suit me at all. I would not be arriving home from work until about 1745 each evening, possibly too late for 15m & 20m, and the lower bands are quite noisy at my QTH.

I decided that I would need to organise time off work so I arranged to be off for 2 days midweek during the second week of the operation. I hoped, by then, all the big boys would have worked them and at least I may have a chance. The week-end of the 11-12 January arrived; I scanned the bands looking for information. I had input all the operating frequencies in the memory of the rig. I listened for the beacons, I heard nothing! I went to work on the 13 January after having a listen in the morning - nothing heard. I phoned the DXNS Voicebank during the day but there was no information. I listened on the bands when I got home, still nothing - no beacons, nothing on the Voicebank, no ON4UN on 80m. I went to bed.

I got up early on Tuesday 14th, still nothing on the bands. I went to work and phoned the Voicebank. At last they were up and running - reports on 40m, 20m & 30m. I phoned again in the afternoon, Bren G4DYO reported them as 5x9 on 18.145 SSB.

I was due to finish work at 1645GMT, so at 1615GMT, I phoned the Voicebank again - Laurie G3UML reported them as being 5x9 at 1553GMT, on 14.195 listening 200-220. I left work 15 mins early, around 1630, and arrived home about 1725. I asked my XYL when dinner would be ready - *"10 minutes"* she said. *"I am just going for a quick listen on 20m"* I said, and went to the shack. When I turned on the rig I couldn't believe it, VK0IR was 5x9 on 14.195, listening 200 to 210. I set my TX to 14.202 and listened.

"VK0IR QRZ 200-210", I dropped my full call in. "EAS** you're 5x9; VK0IR QRZ". In went the call again "IO you're 5x9; VK0IR QRZ 200 to 210". Once again I went the call. Then, music to my ears "EG1 What's your prefix?" "GM0,GM0" I said and unkeyed "GM0EG1 thanks - you're 5x9, VK0IR QRZ 200 - 210" I nearly fainted, but just in case I did, I checked the time, 1731GMT - six minutes after arriving home, my third shout on the first day - **I was in the log.**

By about 1810GMT I could just hear them in the noise and then they were gone. The band was nearly closed with me, the only other station I heard was a ZS6 working a TT8 and would you believe it, I need TT for an all time new one?

I didn't get it, but one new one in a day is not too bad. Still maybe next time when everyone else is trying for VK0IR!!

HEARD ISLAND 1997

Dick Green, WC1M

(Ed: The following articles from the Internet also sum up the DXing thrill of VK0IR)

First, I'd like to join the many voices who have thanked the Heard Island DXpedition crew and pilot team. This DXpedition has been the most exciting and fun to follow in my 14 years as a ham and DXer (and I've witnessed quite a few during those years.) The planning was first-rate and everyone has done a wonderful job during the operation. Thanks to the ops for working the radios so hard, and to the pilots for keeping us so well informed. How could anyone not love having the logs on the Internet? How many rare DX QSOs have you had where you bit your fingernails for six months wondering if you were in the log? Let's hope this becomes standard fare for DXpeditions in the future.

I just missed the big DXpeditions to Heard

back in the early 80's. When I found out about this one, I figured it might be my last chance for a long, long time. But before the operation began, I ran some propagation charts and became rather sceptical about my chances for working them with my simple multiband vertical (not to mention being sceptical about the expedition's chances of breaking any records!) Well, thanks to the incredible saturation operating done by the team at HI, some unexpected openings, and some lucky operating, they're in my log on 40 CW and 20 SSB.

Thanks, guys, for #300. I'll always treasure the card from this DXpedition.

Incidentally, there was only one other band I could work HI on to boost my totals: 80 meters. My multiband vertical, a poor antenna for DXing to say the least, is very nearly a dummy load on 80. I've been putting off doing something about that for years. After procrastinating for two weeks during the HI operation, I finally decided to throw up a full sized wire antenna at the last minute. I have a nice 50 foot tree in the yard, but it's been a lot of years since I put up a wire antenna -- someone else always seems to put the line in the tree on Field Day -- and I was way out of practice.

First, I tried a slingshot with a metal nut and some nylon twine. Never got more than halfway up. Then I tried a kid's bow and arrow kit. The arrow always fell just short of its mark. Finally, I realised that the twine weighed too much and that fishing line might work. After a couple of experiments (and several lost arrows), I found the ideal set-up: nylon ice fishing line. It took about 3 hours, but I finally got a pilot line in the right place, hauled up some sturdy nylon rope, and made an Inverted V (not enough flexweave on hand for a delta loop...)

Did I mention that there was a foot of snow on the ground, freezing rain, and a wind-chill to make your knees shake? Now I know why Field Day is in the summer! At

least I could fantasise that I was going through something like the conditions the guys encountered on HI...

Anyway, the wire antenna showed about 40db better on the S-meter than the multi-band vertical (hey, it really does work on 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 -- sort of.) I had one day left to work Heard Island on 80. I knew, from following the operation carefully, that there is a good opening on 80 meters to the East Coast from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM each day. One day I had great copy on them. Alas, they were working Europe. Missed 'em -- and it's over. But now I have this real nice antenna for 80 meters that works quite well. I called CQ DX on it to-night and started a mini pileup. Thanks for motivating me, Heard Island!

My point is, you can't win 'em all -- especially if your station is lacking. But don't blame the DX. During the operation, I saw a lot of messages from people who were complaining about one thing or another. For example, they weren't working the General Class portion of the bands enough; they weren't paying enough attention to the West Coast; they weren't on 80 CW enough; they weren't paying enough attention to the little pistols with 100w to a dipole; and so on and so on and so on.

My reaction to this is to advise the complainers that no one ever said working DX would be easy.

If you're serious about DXing, work harder on upgrading your license. Improve your CW speed. Improve your operating skills (repeat: improve your operating skills). Listen more (repeat: listen more). Improve your antennas. Improve your station. Yeah, that could take some time and money that you don't have. But it's a lifetime hobby, folks. It's taken me 14 years to work and confirm 300, and at least 200 of those were on multi-band verticals or wire dipoles at 100W. I had a beam for a short time, but I don't at the moment. I've used an amp on and off. When

ZA became legal a few years ago, I was living in an apartment -- I worked them with 10 watts to a wire in the attic. When I finally moved into a house again, I procrastinated about getting my station set up and completely missed Peter I. Will I live long enough to see that one on the bands again? You win some, and you lose some. And the more you do to optimise things at your end the more you will win.

DXing is hard. Sometimes the propagation just doesn't go your way or the XYL insists that you take the family on a vacation during a rare DXpedition. The level of difficulty is part of what makes it so exciting. You just can't rely on the DX to make it easier for you. It's all up to you. As for Heard Island 1997, I doubt that you will ever see any other expedition to a rare one in which the operators try harder to work everyone.

Don't forget to send a donation with your QSL card!

VK0IR - WOW!

Arlan, K8OW

I was aware that the Heard Island Expedition was underway but hadn't given it much thought until spots began showing up on the DX cluster. I had no luck hearing them for several days...my antenna farm is fairly modest (Cushcraft A3S at 35 feet, and a homebrew 80/40/17/10 trapped dipole at roughly the same height). One evening after dinner I was chatting with some friends on 2m simplex and noticed a spot for VK0IR on 30m. Couldn't hear them with the beam, but as luck would have it, I could hear them clear but weak (S3) on the dipole which, as fortune would have it, was broadside to their heading.

The only problem was, I had nothing that was even remotely resonant on 30. Accord to my bridge, the dipole was a hair less than 20:1 and the beam was off the scale. Excusing myself from my 2m QSO, I put my

transmatch in line with the dipole, and was able to bring things down to 2:1. I tried to break through the pileup for about twenty minutes with no luck, and leaned back to take a break. Within less than a minute I heard VK0IR calling CQ with no takers and lunged for the key. Both my first and second attempts elicited a "?". By that time I was beginning to think that, given my antenna situation, I couldn't be heard in the next county on 30, let alone 11,000 miles away. After what seemed like an interminable pause, my third call was answered with "K8OW 599". I sat there stunned, not snapping out of it until the op sent the same a second time. A few seconds later it was all over.

What a rush!

Contact #2 was almost as unexpected. I had seen lots of spots for heard on 20m SSB but had never been able to copy them on phone. While cruising the Web one night around 11pm, I slapped a pair of cans on, swung the beam to 130 and casually listened for at least forty minutes on 14.195 with the RF gain up all the way and volume at 12 o'clock. Sure, I'm gonna work 'em on 20 phone from a few miles north Detroit in the dead of night. I'm going to hit the lottery too.

I thought I was hallucinating due to the racket in my ears as I began to faintly catch brief pieces of VK0IR exchanges. The S meter never budged over the noise floor, but the band gods decided to smile...I gritted my teeth, cranked the volume up to 3 o'clock (wasn't much worse than the front row at a rock concert) and by George, there they were. Set the second VFO to 14.240, turned on the linear, and...oh jeez, I hadn't recharged the 100A gel cell that powers my Herc II solid state amp for a couple of months....couldn't get more than 200 watts out with full drive. Okay, here goes. VK0IR immediately came back with "Again". Must be someone else, right? Three more "Again"s and they had "Kilo". Two more

and they copied K8...the gel cell was pretty much gone now...down to running barefoot. The Heard Op hung in there with me the five additional exchanges it took get the rest of my call. I couldn't believe it.

I know these QSOs will always be among my fondest radio memories. The Heard Island Ops and everyone associated with the expedition have done a fantastic job, and being able to share the experience via the web made it all the more memorable. We all owe them a debt of gratitude and whatever support we can afford.

4J1FS CONGRATULATES VK0IR

Two days before the end of the operation, VK0IR blasting the airwaves from Heard Island, set a new DXpedition world record, breaking the old benchmark which we thought could only be challenged during the next sunspot maximum. VK0IR is set to rack up a staggering 80,000-83,000 QSO's, a DXploit which can be surpassed only by a multi-operator foray to P5.

A new benchmark has been set for new DX-generations.

The old hitherto unassailable record was held by the M-V Island (Malyj Vysotskij) May 1992 4J1FS DXpedition, totalling 74,495 QSO's. That operation ran for 15 days (equalling that of VK0IR) with 12 operators active during the two-week period. The 1992 DX extravaganza was preceded by another M-V Island activity in 1991 with 25,000 QSO's in just 4 days and by a show from that same location in 1990 with 42,000 QSO's in one week.

At one time, nine 4J1FS stations were simultaneously on the air during the record-setting operation, five of them on 20 meters, while usually only 5-6 stations were tackling the huge pileups.

The 4J1FS logs with 74,495 QSO's included 36,109 different stations, uniques! That adds

up to an average of 2.1 QSO's per station

MEGA-DXPEDITION HONOR ROLL

There is now an official record table for Mega-DXpeditions. The following list was collected from various sources. The tabulated list of entries is by no means complete!

	CALL	DATE	Q TOTAL
1	VK0IR	Jan 1997	80673
2	4J1FS	May 1992	74495
3	ZA1A	Oct 1991	69500
4	3Y0PI	Feb 1994	60000
5	AH3C/KH5J	Apr 1990	55000
6	AH1A	Jan 1994	52000
7	FO0CI	Mar 1992	50100
8	XY0RR	Aug 1991	50000
9	3Y5X	Jan 1990	49000
10	XF4L	Apr 1989	47943
12	KP2A/KP5	Jun 1981	45000
11	3D2AM	May 1990	45000
13	1S1XV/RR	Apr 1990	43265
14	XR0Y/Z	Sep 1995	42234
15	4J1FS	May 1990	42000
16	8Z4A	Nov 1979	40800
17	VK9MM	Nov 1993	40000+
18	HK0TU	Nov 1990	40000
19	FO0XA/C	Mar 1978	40000
20	VP8SS1	Mar 1992	39400
21	9M0S	May 1993	37000
22	P5RS7	Dec 1991	36000
23	HC8MD	Nov 1981	35000
24	ZL8RI	May 1996	33897

25	KP2A/KP1	Mar 1982	33552
26	ZS9Z/ZS1	Dec 1990	33200
27	AA4NC/KP1	Jan 1992	33000
29	YA5MM	Apr 1992	32000
30	JY8XY	Oct 1995	32000
31	YA0RR	May 1991	31128
28	T33R/T33T	Nov 1990	30000
32	3D2CT/CU	Mar 1994	30000
33	VK0HU/CW	Jan 1983	30000

Note: No data has been found for the 3Y1EE Jan 87 and KP2A/KP5 March 83 operations. Both operations will rank, probably, in Honor Roll! No data has been received from the famous HK0TU, YV0AA, YX0AI etc., operations.

Congratulations to all operators of VK0IR, thanks to pilots and co-pilots! The operation has been wonderful!

On behalf of 4J1FS 1992:

Jari Jussila OH2BU/OH7RF, Co-ordinator and QSL-manager and operators:

OH1EH, OH1NSJ, OH1MKD, OH1NOA.
OH2BCI, OH2BOZ, OH2BU, OH2BVF,
OH2KI, OH2MAM, OH2MEF, OH5BM,
OH5MLF, UA1AKC, UA1ALZ, UA1ARL,
UA1CFL, UA1-169-2475, UT4UZ,
UV1AA, UW1AE, RV1AW

HEARD ISLAND DX-PEDITION

PILOT PROGRAM MESSAGE # 95

LAST MESSAGE FROM THE PILOTS

MESSAGE FROM PETER, ON6TT

Marion Dufresne, Feb 6 1997 5:45 am. Off shore Reunion Island.

Ton-Ton and Pascal, our helicopter pilot and mechanic are taking off. This is the last flight on the Heard expedition: they bring the heli back to the airport. The air is warm, there is no wind, the sea is calm. Slowly, the heli lifts and makes two tours around the ship.

Slowly, like a honey bee kisses a flower. A last teasing fly-by over the helideck and off he takes.

Yesterday, over a drink, he once more said how special this mission had been. Even he was impressed with Heard island and what we did there. Claude, the coordinator of TAAF, the French Antarctic division, confirmed that. 'It has been a very special mission'. The French authorities, the helicopter

guys, the crew on the Marion Dufresne, and twenty expeditioners all formed a tight team to make this work.

I know this is the beginning of the end. As soon as we dock, people will start leaving.

Feb 6. 19:00. Marion Dufresne.

Ghis-ON5NT, Arie-PA3DUU and I are having a last supper on the Marion. We talk and a laugh a lot and bring up memories of the past 5 weeks. Nevertheless, our heart is a bit heavy. There are 17 empty chairs around us. For our 17 friends we have lived day by day since Christmas. With whom we have shared challenges, danger, tension, wind and rain, and pileups, and laughter, and... Seventeen people we might not see back for a long time.

It is only now that I start to relax a bit. Now, I know that our expedition is over and I can think back with a fulfilled smile. We have done what we set out to do. Exactly as planned, as an execution of a military plan, we 'performed' this expedition. Despite all the negative advise and pessimistic down-talk, we set out to the bottom of the world and the bottom of the solar cycle. With twenty expeditioners, supported by a vaste technical team, we might just have completed one of the largest ham expeditions ever. We hired one of the best polar expedition ships. Landed over 34 tons of equipment in fifty elicopter flights. We set up three remote operating sites, with 6 HF and one satellite station plus an HF beacon. We pushed up over 30 antennas and started 6 generators, good for over 30 KWatt. And

only then, the real work started: Airing the stations, as we planned in our propagation predictions. Trying not to forget one band, one mode, one opening, one population, continuously monitoring our own operation by analysing the logs and altering our course based on the extensive feedback of the pilot stations. And then sending off daily Internet updates and digital pictures, and.. the logs via Pacsat! Only now, I really start to lean back in my chair and enjoy what we did. There were so many 'new' ones or 'firsts' or 'records' which we set. 80,673 contacts, over 1,200 on 160m, over 2,000 different stations on RTTY, 634 on Oscar-10 (another record?)...

And what amazes me even more now: A very complex expedition was executed EXACTLY as was planned, while still the participants and our audience enjoyed it. Without any internal conflicts, professionally, almost 'evidently', we executed 'the' plan. And there were no accidents. We got all and everything safely back. I think we were good. But also lucky. Thank you for sharing this experience with us.

Peter, ON6TT co-expedition leader. Heard '97 Antarctic Expedition

A FINAL WORD FROM THE PILOTS

It was a great experience! Thanks for all the kudos. See you all in Dayton ? !

73

Your pilots: ON4UN, N1DG, W0EK,
K0EU, W4WW, W2IJ, JH1ROJ

CDXC
THE UK DX FOUNDATION

DX OPERATIONS

NU2L/VE8 EXPEDITION 1996

Martin Atherton, G3ZAY

After several years of summer visits to the Canadian Arctic to activate new IOTA groups, by the end of 1995 I was running out of possibilities.

The Ottawa Islands remained unnumbered but are very inaccessible - a considerable distance from the mainland at the northern end of Hudson Bay. Somerset and Prince of Wales Islands, also unnumbered, are about 50 miles from the settlement at Resolute Bay - and there is a wildlife lodge (a tent encampment) which functions in July and August - but the price of 1 week at the lodge was around £2500 (not including the air fare from London to Resolute).

The last of the accessible groups seemed to be the Gulf of Boothia islands. I recalled that on my first visit to the area in 1993, while flying between Igloolik and Coppermine, the First Air plane had touched down for a few minutes at the Pelly Bay airstrip and I had spotted a group of rocky islands only a few kms from the hamlet. Accordingly, in November '95 I wrote off to the manager of the Pelly Bay Co-op Hotel asking if he could find me a guide with a suitable boat and a generator who would take me out to the islands during the summer of 1996.

By January I had received no reply so I telephoned the hotel and soon found myself speaking to a young Inuk, Gabriel Nirlingayut, who held the post of Recreation Coordinator in the hamlet office. Gabriel saw no difficulty at all in my plans and said if I gave him a few weeks warning after I had booked my air tickets he would make all the necessary arrangements.

Access to Pelly Bay was a little more re-

stricted than in 1993 as First Air were only serving it from Yellowknife so I would have to fly into Calgary and head north to pick up the plane. Canadian Airlines had a Flight-Pass system that produced some very cheap domestic fares for their trans-Atlantic customers and as they served Yellowknife the airline choice was made. (Air Canada had a FlightPass as well but there was a substantial supplementary charge to use it in the North West Territories).

I also decided to have a few days in the Rockies at Banff, a day in Yellowknife to visit the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, a day at Gjoa Haven to activate King William Island (NA-131), and 4 days in Quebec/New England. I was particularly interested in Gjoa Haven as it lies at the cross-roads of the North West Passage where many British sailors from the 19th century Franklin expedition died of starvation (and lead poisoning from incorrectly prepared canned food) while trekking south after their ships were crushed in the pack ice. The mysterious disappearance of the Franklin ships, and the campaign orchestrated by Franklin's widow, Lady Jane, for rescue missions to be sent, led to a massive explosion of Arctic exploration in the 1850s and 1860s which filled in the remaining blanks on the map of Northern Canada.

King William Island was also selected by the Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen for geomagnetic observations during his successful navigation of the Passage in 1903-1906. His crew spotted "the finest little harbour in the world" on the south coast of the island and named the place Gjoa Haven after their boat. The Canadians today don't attempt the Norwegian pronunciation - it's simply Joe Haven. The Eskimos have their own name for it, but in general their names have not caught on with Canadian officialdom as they tend to be descriptive

and repetitive (Many Fish Bay, Polar Bear Point, etc.). Occasionally though the names are quite unique - a guide in Iqaluit claims there is a place whose Eskimo name translates as "Where two men kissed for no reason and the caribou got away".

Russ, VE6VK, very kindly met me at Calgary airport at the end of August and took me back to his home for dinner before I headed into the Rockies for a couple of days. While I was away he scoured Alberta for a lightweight linear that I could take north - and he was partially successful in finding a Yaesu FL2100 but I eventually decided that even this was a little too heavy (given First Air's baggage limits) and had to leave it behind.

During my day in Yellowknife I found myself unexpectedly on the air from the bed and breakfast QTH as it turned out to be on Latham Island in the Great Slave Lake - a "new one" for the Canadian Islands award. There wasn't time to set up the Butternut so I used some of the radial wire to create a simple vertical.

Predictably, the weather steadily worsened as we headed north and east and by the time the First Air HS748 touched down at Pelly Bay at 1430 on Friday afternoon there was a gale force northerly wind blowing with the temperature around zero Celsius. Gabriel met me at the airport hut and introduced me to Columban Pujardjuk who was to be my guide for the weekend. I had already told them that I would want to go straight out to the islands when I arrived but they clearly thought this a ludicrous plan given the freezing winds and suggested I might wait until Saturday in case the weather improved. With a scheduled stop of only 48 hours I couldn't afford to waste time - I pointed out the weather could easily get worse - and Columban reluctantly agreed to give it a go.

There was time for a short walk around the settlement before heading off and it seemed that the place was very familiar with radio

activities. Like any Arctic town in summer the people were buzzing around on three and four wheel All Terrain Vehicles - but in Pelly Bay every one was equipped with a CB radio and there was a disciplined calling frequency system in use. Hunting parties out on the land also took radios - using CB for short distance and special LF sets for longer distances. The main landmark, shown on my QSL card, was an old stone church erected by a missionary in the 1940s - this had since been outgrown by the community and is now a museum. The town's commitment to Christianity today is marked by a large cross on the cliffs above the river mouth which was assembled from old oil drums dragged overland from a nearby DEW line site. (The DEW line site has its own airstrip with its own three letter destination code - which caused some confusion when I booked my flights in London as Canadian Airlines wanted to know which airport at Pelly Bay I would prefer to fly into)

It was 1645 by the time we gathered on the river bank next to Columban's speedboat - and I was beginning to doubt my sanity as the wind cut through my layers of Icelandic sweaters and down-filled anorak. Columban's crew-mate Teddy greeted me with a cheery "So you're the Englishman who wants to get drowned". We edged out of the estuary into a bay where despite being in the lee of the islands there was a 3-4 foot swell. Taking maximum advantage of the shelter Columban edged across the bay until we were downwind of my chosen destination - Avataqivik Island - and then headed straight in for an easy grounding on a sheltered sandy beach.

I was expecting the greeting party of around a dozen or so huskies. It is common practice for the Inuit to leave their dogs out on off-shore islands during the summer as they can be a nuisance around the settlement and dangerous for small children. I was reasonably confident of my safety with the island dogs as their owners generally toss

them a couple of seals every week but Columban was clearly watching to see how I would react to being invited to jump down into the middle of a howling and yelping pack. As I expected, they quietened down almost immediately and snuggled into the sand to see what we were going to do.

Despite the cold I had the Butternut assembled in about 30 minutes, Columban started the generator (I had been given the hamlet's portable 3KVA model) and I got out my test-meter to see how many volts it was producing. As I have now come to expect, it was seriously out of adjustment and gave me an option of 150V from the 100V outlet or around 500V from the alternate socket. Fortunately once again the Yaesu switched mode power supply came to the rescue and proved equally happy with 150V on both its 100V and 200V input settings.

The evening was getting dark when I started to operate at 1800 local time (0000z) and I planned to be QRV for only about 45 minutes in order to make the requisite 50 QSOs in 5 countries and qualify for the new reference number. I had no shelter whatsoever and was sitting on the sand - the generator making a deafening racket just a few feet from the microphone - with the logsheets blowing out of my numb fingers.

Conditions proved to be excellent and I was soon working a massive split frequency North American pile-up (EU propagation having closed) but by 0045 Columban was motioning that we should return to the town and I was more than ready to go.

On Saturday morning the wind had dropped but it was snowing gently and when we reached the island there was a thin covering on the beach. I had brought a light-weight tent from the UK which would provide adequate shelter and Columban produced a long extension cable so that the generator noise would be less of a nuisance. The dogs had been gnawing on the Butternut overnight and there were some minor repairs to be

done but I was soon QRV - this time with a massive European pile-up.

On previous expeditions I had operated with a hand-held microphone but this time I had brought my Heil headset with its boom microphone and I intended to make myself rather more comfortable. This innovation proved to be a mistake. After a few minutes of pile-up operation I noticed that the frequency read-out on the transceiver was gradually winding its way down the band. Touching any of the controls stopped this happening but left everything except the main dial completely dead. I could not change band or mode or re-set the split. Turning the rig off and on had no effect. Leaving it off for around 10 minutes did the trick but the problem recurred within a few QSOs. My guess was that this was RF feedback, caused by inadequate earthing, disrupting the microprocessor controls.

At one point I tried working split the old fashioned way by spinning the main dial up and down the band each time I went to transmit - but I wasn't going to be able to keep this up for long. I had brought the FT890 manual with me but also appealed for help on the air resulting in several kind people putting in calls to their local dealers. I had some detailed advice on reset procedures and.....ten minutes later I was reset to 7.000MHz CW and stuck there! The tuning dial still worked, but every other control was dead.

To cut short a long string of expletives, having lost at least an hour of operating time, I eventually worked out that the RF was getting in on the Heil headphone connector and after a further sequence of resets I was back in action with the headphones firmly disconnected.

The weather gradually improved and by mid-day the sun had burned through the clouds. The temperature rose to a balmy 5Celsius and the snow melted away. My husky guard-dogs (good at keeping any

wandering polar bears away according to the local Inuit) settled down to snooze around the tent and I pressed on with the pile-up until around 0100z. I was back on the island on Sunday morning for a few more hours operating but had to leave at 1900z to return to the airport for my flight to Gjoa Haven.

The flight to King William Island took about 45 minutes and I was soon on board the airport shuttle - a rusting pick-up truck - for the 1km trip past the golf course (yes - really, no grass but some fairly flat gravelly "greens") into the settlement. The Amundsen-Franklin Hotel was a welcome sight and outstandingly luxurious for the Arctic - 10 twin bedded rooms with en-suite facilities and cable TV in the room.

I set up my station in the dining room as that was the only corner of the building where the Butternut could be erected clear of the external overhead power cables. Conditions were poor and operating was a struggle with very few Europeans making it through the strengthening auroral flutter. A young Inuk workman downed his tools and wandered across to ask which band I was on and how conditions were. The mystery of his familiarity with amateur radio was explained when he introduced himself as James Qitsualik from Pond Inlet, the son of VE8DX.

On Monday I paid a brief call at the town office where I hoped to see some relics of the Franklin expedition - but unfortunately they had all been removed to museums further south and there was very little left. There was a minor panic that morning when the 6 foot bust of Amundsen was missing from its plinth but it was eventually found in the main hall where it had been placed centre stage for the Labor Day dance.

Monday afternoon I boarded the flight back to Yellowknife with an extra assignment from Garry VE3XN who wanted a photo of the cruise ship "Hanseatic" which had run aground a few miles west of Gjoa Haven. Luckily the weather was clear and we flew

directly over it at about 7,000 feet - though my photo through a warped perspex window and the turbo-prop exhaust was far from perfect.

Before returning to London I stopped off at Montreal and headed south to see my family in Vermont and New Hampshire. This was also an opportunity to check out a couple more islands and I was able to get out - without the radio - to the Isles of Shoals (NA-148) and Monhegan (NA-137) before heading home.

FUTURE OF SABLE ISLAND

By Alan leith, VE1AL

While I do not know the potential result for DXers, the Canadian government has announced that it plans to close the weather station on Sable Island, unless private interests can be coerced into paying for the valuable (my editorialization) services provided to the public. (I won't dare to comment on my feelings about the government's decision, Hi!)

Another possibility is that the station there would be automated and serviced on a regular basis, much like the telephone facility that gets the attention of telco employees (who happen to be hams) on an irregular basis.

Whether the others who have interests on Sable Island (oil companies and scientists studying the environment) would continue to remain there is not known.

At any rate, it would appear at this point that future accessibility to Sable by Amateur Radio Operators could be in severe jeopardy.

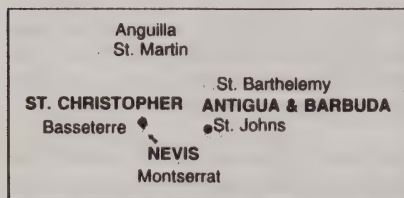
On the other hand, it may be argued, this was not the case on St. Paul Island (CY9) where the lighthouse was automated a few years ago and there is no "permanent" population. While there is no maintenance of the landing site at St. Paul, sea access can

be had with some degree of difficulty. Maintenance crews use government supplied helicopter service.

However, Sable Island has special designation as an environmentally protected area and government permission for "visitors" would likely be scrutinised far more closely than St. Paul. Also, landing areas on the Sable Island beaches are currently checked by "residents" prior to a plane's arrival. The landing site is a portion of beach that has been visually inspected and deemed to be packed hard enough by sea action so that a light plane equipped with very wide tires can touch down safely without becoming bogged down in the sand. No residents would preclude this and make aeroplane arrival difficult or even impossible. Approaching Sable by sea is, at best, extremely dangerous as it is known as "the Graveyard of the Atlantic" and this leaves only very expensive helicopter service, I think.

NEW ONE FOR DXCC?

A recent issue of Caribbean Magazine reported that the residents of Nevis will vote later this year to secede from the union with St. Kitts. If this happens, they will become the smallest island nation in the Caribbean. Looks like we may have a new counter in the offing.



A CHRISTMAS PRESENT

Jim Simon, W1YY

The following relates to an experience on Christmas Eve....

There are less than 10 countries I still need on 40 meters, and one of them was V85

(Brunei). The only one I had ever heard on 40 was V85BG a few years ago, who was calling CQ repeatedly without an answer; I kept answering (no one else apparently heard him), but to no avail. He finally went QRT, and I then discovered to my dismay that the VFO was set for split operation on another frequency from having earlier calling a VK9 working split. Talk about frustration...

Anyway, having heard that another V85 was active from time to time on 40 in recent months, I decided to get on 7.005 on Xmas |Eve and call CQ Asia on the long path. I had a run of JA's, UA0's and HL's going, but periodically stood by for V85?? (of course, not having heard any V85 in the pileup, but what the heck...), and though the JA's, etc., politely stood by, my wishful thinking failed to produce any response from a V85. After about 45 minutes, the Asian stations were starting the fade in strength as there sunrise passed, so I decided to try one last time, "QRZ the V85," and as the other Asians stood by, I thought I heard a very faint signal, ??5HY calling. After a few more tries, it turned out to be V85HY, and we exchanged reports. That certainly made my day! In fact, it started me wondering whether the next time I try that strategy, I should ask the pileup to stand by while I call "QRZ the A51??".

P5?

The following text was extracted from the Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin No. 284:

"P5, NORTH KOREA (ed. The following was received just before print and has not been checked out. It may be FACT or RUMOR.) A message on one of the PBBSS states, "EA1MK says that Martti Laine was in Spea Spain the first week in December for the URE (like ARRL) annual convention. Martti announced that P5 would be activated before May 1st with a big operation; more likely in March or April."

160M FREQUENCY ALLOCATIONS

Jari Jussila OH2BU/OH7RF

The Dutch PTT has collected data from European PTT's for the purpose of the CEPT-licence. (The CEPT-licence is the European common licence, which gives me the possibility to work from 34 European countries plus Israel, New Zealand and Peru, with just my Finnish licence)

Here is the data concerning 160 meters, in-

cluding the frequency allocation and maximum output power (PEP) permitted for the highest class of licence: If there are errors in the data or if you have knowledge of allocations and output powers of any other country (anywhere in the world), please mail me the information. I'll make another summary and post it if there is enough comments.

EUROPE

CT	Portugal	1830-1850 kHz	600W
CU	Azores Is.	1830-1850 kHz	600W
DK	Germany	1815-1890 kHz	75W
EA	Spain	1830-1850 kHz	200W
EA6	Balearic Is.	1830-1850 kHz	200W
EI	Ireland	1820-2000 kHz	10W
ES	Estonia	1820-1955 kHz	100W
F	France	1830-1850 kHz	250W
G	England	1810-2000 kHz	400W
GD	Isle of Man	1810-2000 kHz	400W
GI	Northern Irel	1810-2000 kHz	400W
GJ	Jersey I	1810-2000 kHz	400W
GM	Scotland	1810-2000 kHz	400W
GU	Guernsey	1810-2000 kHz	400W
GW	Wales	1810-2000 kHz	400W
HA	Hungary	1830-2000 kHz	10W
HB9	Switzerland	1810-2000 kHz	1000W
HB0	Liechtenstein	1810-2000 kHz	1000W
I	Italy	1830-1850 kHz	1000W
IS	Sardinia	1830-1850 kHz	1000W
W	Swalbard	1810-1850 kHz	1000W
JX	Jan Mayen	1810-1850 kHz	1000W
LA	Norway	1810-2000 kHz	1000W
LX	Luxembourg	1810-1850 kHz	100W
LZ	Bulgaria	1810-1850 kHz	1000W
OE	Austria	1810-1950 kHz	200W
OH	Finland	1810-1850 kHz	600W
		1915-1955 kHz	60W
OH0	Aland Is.	1810-1850 kHz	600W
		1915-1955 kHz	60W
OH0M	Market Reef	1810-1850 kHz	600W

		1915-1955 kHz	60W
OK	Czech. Rep.	1810-2000 kHz	750W
OM	Slovak Rep.	1810-2000 kHz	750W
ON	Belgium	1830-1850 kHz	40W
		(During major contests possibility to 2 kW)	
OZ	Denmark	1810-1850 kHz	1000W
		1850-1900 kHz	10W
		1930-2000 kHz	10W
OY	Faeroe	1810-1850 kHz	1000W
		1850-1900 kHz	10W
		1930-2000 kHz	10W
PA	Netherlands	1810-1850 kHz	400W
SM	Sweden	1810-1850 kHz	1000W
SP	Poland	1810-1850 kHz	750W
SV	Greece	1830-1850 kHz	300W
TA	Turkey	1810-1850 kHz	30W
TF	Iceland	1820-1850 kHz	500W
TK	Corsica	1810-1850 kHz	
YL	Latvia	1810-1930 kHz	500W
YO	Romania	1810-1850 kHz	400W
9H	Malta	1810-2000 kHz	32W

ASIA

4X	Israel	1810-2000 kHz	1500W
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PACIFIC

ZL	New Zealand	1810-1950 kHz	400W
ZL7	Chatham Is.	1810-1950 kHz	400W
ZL8	Kermadec I.	1810-1950 kHz	400W
ZL9	Auckland Is.	1810-1950 kHz	400W

AFRICA

CT3	Madeira I.	1830-1850 kHz	600W
EA6	Canary Is.	1830-1850 kHz	200W
EA9	Ceuta/Melilla	1830-1850 kHz	200W

ANTARCTICA

3Y	Bouvet	1810-2000 kHz	1000W
3Y	Peter I	1810-2000 kHz	1000W

(Ed: Learn these - there may be test questions later!)

DX NEWS SNIPPETS

GB100 PREFIX Glyn, GW0ANA, reports that at last he has obtained the special GB100 calls from the RA, a rare first for prefix hunters and collectors of Marconi stations.

This is a once and once only chance to get the pair of GB100 prefixes on the centenary of Marconi's first ever DXpedition to an island and two very special events will take place during May of this year. They are Marconi commemorative stations in South Wales. To re-enact Marconi's "historical first", namely the first ever radio transmission across water. Marconi did this from Lavernock Point to Flatholm Island on 13 May 1897.

The Barry Amateur Radio Club, will be operating GB100LP from Lavernock Point from 10 May, 1997, for 7 days and GB100FI from Flatholm Island (GW) Bristol channel South Wales from 13-16 May 1997.

These two events are unique in British Amateur History as its the first time a GB100 call has been used to commemorate Marconi as a pair in the UK.

Flatholm Island was the first IOTA and amateur DXpedition as Marconi came from Italy to Wales to experiment his DXing across water from EU-124!

For further information contact Glyn Jones, GW0ANA, Chairman of Barry Amateur Radio Society. Tel 01446-774522 QTHR. QSL Manager for both GB100LP & GB100FI is GW0ANA

MACQUARIE ISLAND, VK0. Tom Stoke, VK0TS, arrived on December 17 and although his work at the meteorological station will keep him busy, he will try to be QRV on 14222 kHz. QSL information is not as yet available.

SOUTH SHETLAND, VP8. Mark, SP3GVX, will be QRV on all bands using SSTV and satellite as HF0POL during his year at the Henryk Arctowski Base, King George Island. QSL via SP3FYM.

GIBRALTAR, ZB2/G4ZVJ Between 12-19 Feb, approx 4200 QSOs were made from Gibraltar. All CW except for 80 RTTY QSOs. QTH was on the Eastern side of the "Rock" which made the ARRL DX CW contest tough going as expected. However, about 150 QSOs with North America were made on 80 and 40 metres. WX was FB most of the week - 20/23 C. QSL via G4ZVJ.

GHANA, 9G Between 6-18 March, Andy, G4ZVJ will sign 9G5VJ from Accra, Ghana. All HF bands, CW only, including activity in the RSGB Commonwealth Contest on 8/9th March. QSL via G4ZVJ

EAST MALAYSIA, 9M8. PB0ALB will be in Sarawak from April 19th to June 6th as 9M8CC. Activity will be on AMTOR/RTTY and SSB on 80-10 meters. Europe stations should look for him on 15 meters at 1100z, 20 meters at 1200 and 80 meters at 0000z. JA/USA stations should look for him somewhere between 0200-0600z for 15/20 meters and 1000z for 80 meters.

BURKINA FASO, XT. Hugolin, XT2HB is a new licensee here. He is active on 14120 kHz at 1730z and weekends on 14225 kHz at 0730z. QSL to Dep. 01, BP 6397, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

TOP BAND DISEASE

Larry "Tree" Tyree N6TR

Hello - my name is Larry Tyree - I have TopBand disease. It has been 14 hours since I have last worked Europe on Top-Band. Yes folks, some of my close friends and family members know this, but to the rest of you, this might be a surprise... I have

the TopBand disease, and it is a bad case. I have had this disease for about 25 years now. At times it appears to be in remission, but then it comes back strong (this appears to be related to sunspots).

For those of you not familiar with Amateur Radio, some background information will help you fully understand this condition. Some people in Amateur Radio call themselves "DXers"; DX is a term used to indicate "far away". This manifests itself as a strong desire to "work"; as many different countries as possible. After working a new country, the patient will experience a high; similar to the one experienced by a sport fisherman when he actually catches a fish. However, after a few hours, this high is replaced with anxiety while waiting for the QSL from the station worked.

These QSL cards are proof that the contact took place, look great on the wall, and are used to apply for various awards. Sometimes this anxiety can last for months. I remember having to wait EIGHT YEARS for my card from China to finally arrive. To get a card from Cuba, I had to use a friend in Europe to send it, because it appears mail between Cuba and the USA never gets delivered. Some cards never come. I have been told that getting a card from EU6AF in Belarus will probably be impossible.

DXing is the general strain of this disease. Many people have had terminal cases of it. Just last summer, George Wise, W7MB was at my house and he is one of three people at the top of the DXCC Honor Roll list. The Honor Roll is reserved for people who have worked the most countries, and George was at the top of the list longer than I can remember. George passed away recently and we all miss him. Being on this list generally requires a lifetime of effort (at least until packet was introduced - a computer network that allows you to share information with others concerning where and when needed countries are).

Radio hams have many different bands that they can use. Each of these bands have different characteristics. Some are night time bands, and others are only alive during the daytime. Some of the bands provide world-wide communication and others are limited to the local area (except under rare conditions). Some bands have antennas the size of you arm, and others require acres of room to have an efficient antenna.

Most hams who are trying to collect countries use bands between 7 and 30 megahertz, on bands known as 40 , 30, 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 meters. Some stray down to 80 meters (3.5 megahertz), but that is rare as the antennas are fairly large, there is lots of noise, and not many DX stations show up on this band. However, the TopBand; or 160 meters, is even more of a challenge. This band, located at 1.8 megahertz (or 1800 kilohertz) is just above the AM broadcast band and has similar propagation characteristics as the top part of it. Listen between 1500 and 1600 kHz sometime and see what you hear. You might hear a station 1000 miles away at night, but maybe only 100 miles during the day. Yes, TopBand is a night time band and because of this, the activity peaks during the times of year when darkness is more prevalent (winter).

AM broadcast stations can run up to 50,000 watts. Radio hams can only run up to 1,500. You have seen the size of AM broadcast towers. They are typically a collection of 3 or 4 towers, each over 200 feet tall, sitting in a 20 acre lot. Radio hams who operate TopBand always drool when driving by one of these stations.

The infected operator will spend all of his mental energy figuring out how to put up an antenna system as similar as possible to the commercial AM station on their own property. Some of them actually succeed, but few of us have the resources. Because of this, there is a lot of experimentation with different antennas, much more so than on

some of the other bands. Many TopBand operators use wires hanging in trees - which is how ham radio was supposed to be.

As you can imagine, we are at a significant disadvantage compared to the average AM broadcast station. However, with enough patience and lack of sleep, we have been able to work around the world on TopBand. I am very proud of my country total on TopBand (now over 130). I have worked over 30 different countries in Europe and my furthest contacts are with South Africa (over 10,000 miles as the radio wave travels) and Perth, Australia. Contacts with Europe are more difficult because of the earth's magnetic field. Radio waves from Oregon to Europe travel pretty close to the magnetic north pole. Energy from the sun effects the Van Allen belt, which has a significant effect on TopBand signals. If you can see the Northern Lights, my radio is turned off, and I am actually spending time with my family.

Since the number of people who can put up an antenna for topband is limited, there is a feeling of fraternity among the people who you talk to. This was very strong 20 years ago, and has been diluted only a little with increased activity.

Perhaps I can best describe how you get this disease by explaining how I caught it. It was back in 1972. I was 18 years old and had been a ham for almost 5 years. There was a contest coming up (an event where you try to talk to as many people as you can in a weekend), and it was a 160 meter contest. I had no transmitter for this band, but I did have a receiver. I borrowed a transmitter; from a friend (a Messenger Signal Shifter), not much of one, but it did run 5 watts (about enough to light up a flashlight). The contest started on Friday and I was able to work six states with it the first night: Arizona, California, Oregon, Washington, Utah and Idaho. I was operating in Southern California at the time.

The next day was spent trying to improve the antenna system (more wires) and the transmitter (modify my 80 meter transmitter to be an amplifier). With my improved signal, I was able to work Kentucky!! The callsign of the station I worked was K4GSU, who is now N4AR, and I hear him on TopBand almost every night 25 years later. He obviously has a bad case as well.

More improvements were made, and I finally worked all states from my parent's suburban lot in Southern California. My antenna wire was made out of invisible 30 gauge wire and was strung across the street to a telephone pole (bet you didn't know about that one dad).

A few years later, a friend of mine (Marty Woll, WB6VZI/N6VI) and I, went to my parent's mountain cabin for some 160 meter contests. We strung antennas at the top of the 100 foot trees and were able to work Japan! One of the callsigns we worked was JA3ONB - who I actually worked this morning on 2 January 1997. He is obviously another poor soul who has this disease.

When I moved to Oregon, I finally was able to put up a proper TopBand antenna. David, AA6RX, was visiting me and we modified one of my towers to act like an antenna for 160 meters. The results were surprising. We worked several stations in Japan the next morning, and in the winter of 1985/86, I heard my first European! I can still remember hearing the letters "9AMO"; which were coming from Pierre, HB9AMO in Geneva. I didn't work Pierre (until 11 years later), but soon after I worked Jose, EA3VY (Spain), for my first European country. It was followed shortly by Dave, G3SZA (England), who now lives in Colorado. I remember one night the next October (like it was yesterday) where I worked FOUR new European countries in one evening: including Finland (OH1XX). All of these people mentioned have been heard on topband by myself in the

past week or two.

Perhaps I should now explain the symptoms of the disease. They are as follows:

1. Desire to be on the radio at sunrise.
2. Desire to be on the radio at sunset.
3. Desire to be on the radio at all times in between Sunset and Sunrise.
4. Desire to struggle for months to work a single station in a new country. In extreme cases, this might go on for more than a year. A good example is Riki, 4X4NJ in Israel who tried for two years to finish off working all the states in USA.
5. Never being satisfied with the antenna system and constantly trying new ones.
6. Only comes down to see the family after working a new country (to gloat). During the rare fantastic opening, will come down after each new country and old up fingers indicating how many new countries were worked so far. These events are equivalent to multiple orgasms, and occur about once or twice in a century.
7. Drinks lots of water before going to bed with the sole purpose of waking up in the wee hours of the morning to see if a new country can be found.
8. Has problems getting to work on time during the winter months.
9. Sends equipment and wire to people in unworked countries, hoping that the end result will be their QSL card on the wall.
10. Spends thousand of dollars going to rare countries just so other people can work it. This is a problem, as they don't get credit for the country themselves!!

If these symptoms persist for more than one sunspot cycle (every 11 years), then you should strongly suspect TopBand disease.

Currently, the only known cure for symptoms of the disease is exposure to lots of sunspots. This increases the absorption of TopBand signals in the ionosphere, and also makes the higher bands more attractive.

Most people (except those with very bad cases) will spend time on the less masochistic bands when high sunspots are present.

Please understand, this only treats the symptoms, not the root cause. It is possible for the disease to go into hiding for a number of years. Earl, K6SE, had the symptoms really bad in the 1970's. Then he was not heard from for almost 15 years. I had thought about looking him up to see if he had found a cure, but I heard him just a couple of nights ago trying to work a station in Sweden.

If you know someone who has this disease, don't invite them over to any dinner parties during the months of December or January. They will constantly be looking at their watch, and using your computer to log into the packet cluster to see what stations have been reported on the band. If you know someone married to a person who has the disease, it is okay to invite them over (alone). This will be greatly appreciated by the TopBand addict and will be repaid during the summertime with equal kindness.

For further information on TopBand, subscribe to the topband mailing list. Send a subscribe message to:

topband-request@contesting.com.

There are other strains of the disease which I should mention. The symptoms are equally devastating:

1. Moon bounce - communicating by bouncing signals off the moon.
2. VHF/UHF DXing - using frequencies similar to your TV.
3. QRP - limiting your output power so people can't hear you very well - good for sadists too.

If you are thinking of exposing yourself to TopBand, you should be aware of the risks. You might find yourself only valuing your 40 meter beam as top loading for your vertical!

AMATEUR RADIO IN CHINA (PRIVATE)

By Phil Whitchurch, G3SWH

We must have been mad to have booked a holiday in Beijing in December 1996, but we did. After we investigated the charts of temperatures, and found them to be typically between -10°C and freezing, my wife Jan bought long thermal underwear for us both. Very sexy I can tell you!

Once the novelty of the underwear had worn off, I started to think about the possibility of meeting up with some of the Beijing amateur population and (maybe) operating one of their stations during our visit. With a busy sightseeing schedule and even with an XYL as understanding as Jan, I didn't believe that I would be able to operate for more than a few hours, although the prospect of meeting some "real" Chinese people appealed to us both.

I contacted Roger, G3LQP who attended the Beijing DX Convention in October 1995 who gave me a fax number for the Chinese Radio Sports Association (CRSA). I duly sent a fax to their Secretary General, Mr Chen Ping, BA1HAM and received a reply after some time requesting that I send them a copy of my passport and UK licence together with US\$5, upon receipt of which they would issue an Operator's Certificate for Visitors. They also gave me an E-mail address for Mr Yao Shun, BZ1LUV, President of the Tsing Hua University Amateur Radio Club station, BY1QH. They also kindly sent an E-mail to Shun to introduce me.

I sent the documents by return and arranged to contact the CRSA when in Beijing to pay the fee. I also sent an E-mail to Shun, which was very promptly acknowledged giving a telephone number to contact him when we arrived.

As I wasn't sure which (if any) day I would

be active, advance publicity was difficult, but I did try to pass the word round the UK DX community beforehand.

We arrived in Beijing at about 6 am local time on 17th December after a nine hour direct flight from Heathrow. It was dark and bitterly cold, but we were soon whisked off to the Shangri-La Hotel and settled in. The hotel really is five star, and probably the best I've ever stayed in anywhere in the world.

I'd read some horrendous stories about the Beijing telephone system and after some sleep prepared to do battle. I got through to Shun surprisingly easily and we arranged to meet after lunch on Saturday 21st December, when he would come to the hotel to collect me and take me to the University campus, which is quite close to the hotel. I also telephoned the CRSA and arranged to meet Chen during the morning of Friday 20th.

Travel around the city is very easy by taxi, which are very cheap, costing as little as one or two Yuan (one Yuan is about eight pence) per kilometre, depending upon the quality of the car. Taxi drivers speak little or no English and it is vital to have your destination written down in Chinese characters before boarding the taxi. The hotel thoughtfully provides cards in both English and Chinese, which makes it easy to get back, but getting to anywhere but the main tourist sites was fraught with problems - and great fun!

Roger, G3LQP commented in the write-up of his 1995 visit that he saw neither birds nor petrol stations. I thought I knew the answer to the former, as the Chinese have a reputation of "eating everything with wings except aircraft and everything with legs except furniture". In the various parks we saw lots of azure-winged magpies, magpies, feral pigeons, Eurasian crows and sparrows, a single Pekinese dog but no cats. Dogmeat is a speciality in some of the ethnic restaurants,

but I for one couldn't face it.

Bob, K9RHY commented in his write-up of his December 1995 visit that Beijing at night has virtually no lights and is not a prosperous city. Well, in a single year, an awful lot has happened: all the main roads are lit by modern sodium lamps, public, commercial buildings are tastefully floodlit and restaurants stay open quite late, although the rule of early to bed and early to rise still very much applies. New construction is rife, and the skyline is a patchwork of cranes

marking the building sites. There are presently no less than 30 McDonalds franchises in operation within the city, as well as a Hard Rock Cafe and several other Western style fast food outlets.

Petrol stations do exist, but are few and far between. Most taxi firms and commercial organisations have their own private facilities. Petrol is very cheap at around 35-40 pence per gallon.

Chen also spoke by telephone to the hotel concierge, who wrote down in Chinese the directions to the CRSA offices. He also gave them to me in English. They were extremely complex, because only the main streets in Beijing have names. The five storey building is shared with the administrations of the Sports of Aeronautics and Models under the State Sports Commission of China and is down a back lane or hutong near the junction of Yongdingmendong Road and Tiantandong Road, opposite the International Tennis Centre.

However, I was sure the taxi driver had taken us to the right place when I spotted the large array of HF antennas of BY1PK on top of the building. Jan and I were greeted by Mr Wang Xinmin, BA1OK, Deputy Secretary General, CRSA, who introduced us to Chen and his delightful assistant Miss Cao Huicong.

My Operator's Certificate was already made

out, I paid my \$5 and was then invited to operate. I declined this kind offer as I had planned only to talk to Chen and Wang about the current state of amateur radio in China during this visit and we were planning to visit the nearby Temple of Heaven afterwards.

The CRSA now have over 6000 members, an increase of some 3000 since 1994. Apart from about 110 club stations, there are now about 500 home stations, 26 of which are in Beijing. However, only about 50 or 60 of these hold licences with HF privileges, the remainder being VHF only. Prior to 1992, only club stations were permitted, but it is now official policy to encourage the setting up of home stations. However, many operators do not speak English well and prefer to talk to each other on 2 metres.

Equipment is a major difficulty as individual wages are unbelievably low by Western standards and the cost of an imported, Japanese transceiver consequently prohibitively high. There is some surplus military equipment of 1960's vintage which can be modified and some home brew kits available. All must then be submitted to the Radio Regulatory Commission for checking prior to use.

BY1PK is the club station of the CRSA, and is housed in the same room as BY1BJ, the club station of the Beijing RSA. The equipment was mainly donated by Japanese, Canadian and US people and consisted of a Trio R-1000, an ICOM IC-781, Kenwood TS-711A, TS-811B, TS-670 and TS-940S with HL-200A and Drake L4B amplifiers with many peripheral items such as power meters, TNC's and rotators. There are a variety of antennas on the roof, including several yagis and caged dipoles, but I understand that they suffer badly from TVI problems.

Qualifications for an amateur licence consist of a written examination on Regulations, procedures and technical matters leading to three classes of licence:

Class 1, requiring Morse code at 70 characters per minute (approx. 14 wpm) and allowing full HF privileges and 500 watts.

Class 2, requiring Morse code at 50 characters per minute (approx. 10 wpm) with restricted HF privileges and 100 watts.

Class 3 (HF), requiring Morse code at 40 characters per minute (approx. 8 wpm) with limited HF privileges and 10 watts.

Class 3 (VHF), requiring no Morse code, having no HF privileges and a 3 watt power limit.

There is also a Class 4 licence for SWLs only.

Callsign prefixes designate the class of licence held, e.g. BA is Class 1, BD is Class 2 and BG is Class 3. BY designates a club station and BZ is for the personal identification of club station operators.

There is no written power limit for club stations, but this is normally less than 1.5-2.0 kW.

The country is split up into ten geographical call areas on the same principle as the USA. e.g. '1' is the Beijing municipality - an area the size of Belgium; '4' is Shanghai and the east coast; '7' is in the south and '0' is Tibet and the west.

Unfortunately, Chinese club stations suffer from the same problems as do many club stations world-wide: many enthusiastic operators and no-one responsible for or prepared to deal with the incoming QSL cards. Chen explained that when there were only a few club stations QSLs were not a major problem. There is no QSL bureau as such and with the sharp increase in the number of active stations, a huge backlog has accumulated at the CRSA. A bureau is being organised, but it is a low priority.

Outgoing airmail postage is relatively expensive at about 5 Yuan - equivalent to a 5 kilometre taxi ride! Chen recommends

DXers to QSL direct the individual station's home address with IRC's or US dollars. Incoming mail is claimed to be fairly secure from theft, but mail to BY1QH is opened by the University authorities and any currency removed. However, IRC's are safely delivered with the cards.

Chen announced that the next expedition to Scarborough Reef, BS0H is being planned for April/May 1997. CRSA have formed a liaison with a Chinese oceanographic institute who regularly visit the area and who can provide transport at sensible cost.

As arranged, Shun, BZ1LUV collected me from the hotel the following day. Jan decided not to come to the University, but we invited Shun and his girlfriend to come out to dinner later, and show us some "real" Chinese cuisine.

Shun is fluent in English, including slang. He is an engineering student specialising in fibre optics and just about to start on his thesis. Looking for sponsorship to attend a University in England or the USA, he is in touch with 29 colleges. He was born in Guangzhou (Canton) in the south, where his father is a nuclear physicist. He also told me his name was pronounced Sean (as in Connerly).

Tsing Hua University is the second largest of 15 Universities in Beijing, having about 20,000 students. The Chinese name is Qing Hua, hence the BY1QH callsign. The station is located on the fourth floor of a dormitory building on the campus, with yagi, quad and wire antennas mounted on the roof. Shun occupies the room next door. Although there are 11 members of the club, only four of whom are active, I didn't meet any of the others.

Since it is the University club station, the operators change but the equipment, antennas and location stay the same. Unfortunately, much of it is suffering from lack of maintenance: the quad for 20/15/10 metres

had been damaged in a gale and never repaired and all of the several amplifiers were faulty for lack of spares. Shun explained that the club only gets 1000 Yuan (about £70) per year towards its upkeep, so I was pleased to make a donation to their funds.

Since returning, I've learned that the yagi has been damaged in another storm. Shun has promised to repair it, but they are now only active on 160, 80, 40 and 2 metres.

The HF rig is an ICOM 750A, running 100 watts of CW and which has a built in electronic keyer. There was an interface problem with my trusty and well travelled Vibroplex mechanical bug. I've never learned to use an electronic keyer and a quick look at the manual failed to tell me how to switch the keyer off, so I wound the speed down and set wide the gaps of the Bencher paddle.

A 486 computer in the shack runs Windows and LOG-EQF as a logging program, which is the same as I use at home, although a much older version without keyboard generated CW. I thus brought the log away with me on disk rather than paper.

The Operator's Certificate ruled that the call sign to be used should be "the home call of the holder followed by "/" and the call sign of the operating station (e.g. "WA1AA/BY1PK"). I bent this rule slightly and used "BY1QH/G3SWH".

A few minutes practice with Bencher "off the air" gave me enough confidence to turn the 4 element monoband yagi towards Europe and put out a CQ on 14025 kHz at 0640 UTC (2.40 PM local). I was immediately answered by OH2BLV, followed by SP3NA. I must confess that I was looking forward to being on the end of a big pile-up, but conditions were poor, the noise level high and demand surprisingly low. I only worked 56 stations in the first hour, with just less than half being Japanese.

The first G was Fred G4BWP at 0832 UTC, following up an earlier PacketCluster spot

by ON5UK. A few more G's followed before the band began to die at local sunset, being completely dead by 0930 UTC. I then wanted to try 30 metres, but Shun has no antenna, so we moved on to 7002 KHz with a sloping dipole facing north. The first CQ produced a pile-up of Japanese and I worked 67 stations in a matter of about 40 minutes.

Unfortunately, time was running out as I'd promised Jan that we would be back between 6 and 7 PM local. Shun's Finnish girlfriend Marike arrived promptly at 6.30 PM and I had to close down with 182 QSO's in the log after a total of 3.75 hours operating.

Marike also speaks excellent English and is studying anthropology and learning Mandarin, the main Chinese dialect. The three of us went back to the Shangri-La to collect Jan and for a drink whilst I got changed. Shun took us to an authentic Cantonese restaurant where Jan and I caused great consternation by asking for forks. After turning the place upside down, they could only find two forks and one knife. We had a wonderful meal with century eggs, jellyfish, chicken soup, aubergines and several delicious but unidentified dishes, all carefully selected by Shun not to offend our Western palates, and washed down with Chinese beer. The bill for the four of us was about £25. Despite a Master Card sign clearly displayed in the window, the staff refused point blank to take mine, so I paid cash. We parted at about 10 PM and took a taxi back to the hotel after one of the most memorable days of the holiday.

Special QSLs have been printed and are available either direct (I'm QTHR in any callbook) or via the RSGB bureau.

My thanks are due to my wife Jan, to Mr Chen Ping and the staff of the Chinese Radio Sports Association and to Yao Shun of the Tsing Hua University's club station, without whose help this operation would not have been possible.



Chen Ping, BA1HAM,
General secretary of the
China Radio Sport Association
(CRSA) with Phil, G3SWH

R-L: Phil, G3SWH, Jan - Phil's
XYL, Yao Shun, BZ1LUV and
Mairike - Finnish YL of Yao
Shun



Phil, G3SWH, at one of the op-
erating positions at BY1PK

Phil, G3SWH with Wang
Xinmin, BA1OK, Deputy Gen-
eral Secretary of the China
Radio Sport Association



QRZ CONTEST Ken Chandler, G0DRH

Welcome to the contest section of CDXC Newsletter. I hope that the majority of the contesting fraternity, and there are a large proportion of testers in CDXC, enjoyed their chosen event during the past couple of months, I for one did! I had the good fortune of having a fairly good topband antenna for the RSGB 160m event, so I was for once contented with a decent score and worked S21XX for an added bonus. Hi! I must remind you that the 60th Anniversary Commonwealth Contest is just round the corner, and yes I know I've been harking on about it for the past 4 months or so, but this is a major Contest and requires publicity to ensure the Contest remains active and supported during the lean solar years. I dare say that, come the next cycle, we will see a vast improvement in entries world-wide, But at the bottom of the Trough its difficult and requires dedication as well as commitment. So, why not open up the bands come BERU you may enjoy yourself, and be surprised.

Lastly, this is the last effort by yours truly in QRZ Contest as I'm standing down as of this

Issue. I had informed the Committee back in October/November last year that I would not be able to continue as contest Co-ordinator because with changes at work etc., I cannot give 100% to you the membership at this time. I am of course remaining in CDXC, and would like to wish the new Contest Co-ordinator all the best in his/her new role for I've had 2 good enjoyable, and memorable years as an officer of the club. Thanks for your past support, and I dare say see you on the QRGs.

73s Ken.....G0DRH.

(Ed: Grateful thanks to Ken for his regular input to the Newsletter since January, 1995. We wish Ken well with his future DXing and contesting. Just before this issue closed it was announced that Don Field, G3XTT would take over as CDXC Contest Coordinator. Don, an enthusiastic tester, past editor of this Newsletter and DX News Sheet, etc etc, needs little introduction to UK DXers and I am confident that in Don's capable hands this feature will thrive).

WRTC-96 VIDEO

Through the courtesy of WJET-TV, Inc. and station owner K3TUP, production of the WRTC 96 video has been completed and the tapes are now ready for distribution. This 27-minute documentary of the biggest contesting event of 1996 captures all the excitement and drama of the competition and presents the contesting hobby at its best.

Distribution of the tapes is being handled under the auspices of the Northern California Contest Club and the Slovenian Contest Club. The tapes are available for a nominal shipping and handling fee, and any excess funds remaining after distribution will revert to the sponsoring organisations.

If you want to order a tape recorded with NTSC format (the format in use in the US), send \$10 in US currency (or a check made payable to Bruce Sawyer) together with a gummed address label (max size 2" x 4") to the following address:

Bruce Sawyer, N6NT, 15430 Bohlman
Road, Saratoga, CA 95070, USA

If you want to order a tape recorded with PAL format (the format in use in many European countries) send either \$10 in US currency or 15 Deutschmarks together with a gummed address label to the following address:

Tine Brajnik, S50A, Maroltova 13,

1113 Ljubljana, Slovenia

We are prepared to ship to any location, worldwide, for the \$10 shipping & handling fee. Our goal is to make available a copy of this tape to anyone who wants one. Thus we do request your help in reproducing this announcement wherever you think appropriate in order that as many people as possible can be made aware of the video.

CQ WW 160 - OT7T

John Devoldere, ON4UN

SCORE: 934,500 POINTS

Station: ON4UN

Operator: ON4UN

Equipment: FT1000 and 2 KW amp.

TX ant : 1/4 wave full-size verical with 250 radials.

RX ant: 12 beverages (1 per 30 degrees).

The story: This one is going to be different. I am tired even before the contests starts. I have slept an average of maybe 5 hours per night in the last 10 days, and that is too little at my age! This Heard Island venture is taking ALL of my time. At one time I even thought of not entering the contest! But I was able to take a nap from 20:00 to 21:20, just before the contest.

Judging from the way the VK0 guys have been coming through here in Europe on 160, almost day after day, this should be a good contest, at least as far as conditions are concerned.

It starts as usual: trying to get my JA-multiplier, just in case the band is dead on the second day. It's always a big struggle to work the JA's from western Europe. Even the German station, just maybe 300 miles East seem to have a big advantage. It takes me almost 15 minutes before I have my first QSO in the log, but this is no reason to panic. It's like that almost every year. After having worked one JA, I just start working anything I hear, which is QRM and Euro-

pean stations. As usual, you don't work any DX in the first few hours (apart that one JA, of course). But you have to work the Europeans as well, so anyhow...

JY9QJ is my first DX, and as always VE1ZZ my first NA station. W2GD was probably the loudest NA station, and also the first US station in the log. Nice surprise to have FM5BH stopping by, and 9X4WW (23:52). Boy was he loud. I have my Beverage switched to the South East a lot, because I kind off expected VK0IR to surprise me with a multiplier. The first Caribbean station worked was 8P9DX with a big signal. US stations started to come in around 01:30. VQ9SS was very loud here in Europe. But not a very good opening. More Caribbean worked the first night: P40WA, PJ9JT and KP4/K4UJ. As the night progressed the skip lengthened, and AA0RS (Co) was the first W0 worked, followed by NR0X (Ia) and K0HA (Neb). The first W7 was Jim, N7JW from Utah. Utah once used to be of the two most difficult States to work from Europe (with Idaho), now I work Jim almost every day! Surprise (no, it really should not be!) to hear K4VX with a super signal from Mo. But no West coast, and no Deep South Mid West., except just one station: K5GN in Texas. The band goes dead at 07:28 z. Same time year after year after year. Anyone knows why??? Normally that's the time I go an hit the sack. Not this time. I have some 250 messages on the Internet waiting for me to read and to answer..... Two hours later, I AM in bed... Ten second later I AM sound asleep.

I usually start again around sunset (approx. 16:00z). Big surprise a solid S9 signal from XX9TR at 16:24. Maybe conditions will be good the East tonight. And yes they turned out to be quite good to the East. The best proof is my all-time new country on 160: XU6VW. And HE called ME!! KC6VW I had to go and get in a large pile-up. My technique is, while I run on a frequency, to scan the band with the second receiver, not

really trying to copy calls, but just looking for large pile-ups. That's how I found a good number of good multipliers. The trick is then to call in the pile up and still keep your run frequency going... After a while you develop a technique for that. The bands are good to the East: it's been years ago since I worked Mike, VK6HD in a contest, but this time he called me with solid 579 signals. The default direction for my Beverage is now Seat East. And yes, at 21:00, there they are: VK0IR. Tks guys! Nice multiplier. I am really excited now. Maybe try some JA's, although it is tough from this far West. And yes, between 21:20 and 22:00 I worked about 15 of them. I have a big problem with working JA's on 160. These guys never give the call of the station they are calling. This make it very possible that you think you are working a station, but the guy is working someone else. I think it should be mandatory that the calling station, in case of split frequency working, sends the call of the station called at the beginning of his call and at the end of the contact. How about having that in the rules? Normally the band should open up around 230 to the US. But signals are very weak. They remain very weak, and get even weaker as the night progresses. I work nothing but European stations... Between 00:00 GMT and 01:00 I work a grand total of 16 stations! That's enough. I switch off, and go on Internet. There at least I have a pile-up, a good number of VK0IR related messages waiting for me, which I try to take care of in the next 30 minutes.

When I get back, it is still very quiet, but I manage to catch V47KP, but it took me about 5 minutes calling. Then, at 02:30, someone must have flipped the switch: propagation is ON now. Suddenly I find myself working US-stations at a rate of one a minute. New State multipliers are rolling in: IN, TN, FL, ND (W0ZTL), MN, NM. (N5UL), AZ (KC7V), KS (N0JK), K5YG (MISS), K5YAA (OK), etc... Boy, what an opening... Let's hope it stretched out all the way to the West coast. In the mean time I

find pile-ups for PJ7AA, ZF2QM and TI2C and manage to work those as well. Amazing little detail: while in the ARRL 160 meter test I could not work a single station from the state of Arkansas (one guy told me that all the friends of the president were all "doing time"...), I now worked about 5 of them (are they all free, maybe on parole?) First signs of "stretching" skip comes from W7ZTL (Mt) at 06:17. At 06:30 I log W7GG (Ore) and at 07:13, about 15 minutes before my sunrise I finally get my California multiplier: KA6V. I never heard N6TR nor the Rainbow ridge station. One of the nicest surprises was being able to break a US pile up with VE5RA!. My last morning-QSO is made at 07:40. In the afternoon I work another 20 European stations before going QRT at 16:00 z. My last QSO (5 seconds before the end of the test) was with my good friend Hannu, OH1XX!

The results: let's compare with 1996, when condition were really quite a bit better, at least to the US:

	1996	1997
QSO'S:	1275	1119
COUNTRIES:	79	76
STATES/PROV:	47	49
SCORE:	1.133K	934K
% EU:	38	29
% NA:	58	66
% ASIA:	4	5

It is clear that the difference in score is due to the bad first half on the second night, when the US was very weak. I worked only 340 NA stations vs 490 last year!

The Window was of little if any use (why is it so different from what I experienced in the ARRL 160 meter test?).

The only DX station I could not work was and XE2DV, who had a very good signal, but had only ears for US-stations. I tried to attract his attention or the attention of a

"friendly" US station by sending EU EU EU for 5 minutes, but no avail!

As in every contest there were a couple of guys that did not care starting up on a busy frequency. It took me 3 minutes to make clear to DJ5** he came on a busy frequency. With SN3* it took 20 minutes (17:30 - 17:50). That op was a real LID! I did not make any QSO's but he neither. Finally he moved.

The worst case was undoubtedly UA9***. He did not move. After 20 minutes I moved. This was an "ought to be disqualified!"

An amazing other little detail, which made me loose almost 5 minutes: I call SK1**. He signs "QSO B4". He is not in my log. Maybe he thinks he worked me. So I go back "NOT IN MY LOG, SRI, PSE QSO". What follows is a "discussion" taking almost 5 minutes.... Incredible. I never care to tell anyone he is a dupe. Why should I? This takes much more time than to log them (CT will log them as a dupe, so no problem). And, maybe the first QSO I logged was not

a good one. Maybe he had my call wrong. Maybe this is, after all, the first good QSO.

That was it for 1997. See you all next year. Sorry we missed the 1,000,000 mark this year, but the new country (XU6VW) compensated this very well.

UK CONTESTS ON THE WEB

By Tom, GM4FDM

For anyone interested in UK Contests in particular I have started a home page for a rules and results service. As I am new to this, it is fairly basic but its a start. When I get to chapter 2 in the book I will re-adjust the pages and insert some graphics and photos (I hope)...

My URL is:

<http://users.colloquium.co.uk/~wylie/home.htm>

European stations with rules for European countries, please feel free to e-mail them to me with the contest dates for 1997 and I will gladly publish them. I hope it works out.

CONTEST RULES

WPX SWL CHALLENGE

1. The Challenge is open to any short wave listener in the world.

2. The Challenge will be from 0000 UTC on 29 March 1997 to 2359 UTC on 30 March 1997. Only 36 hours of the 48 hours can be used. Rest periods must be clearly shown in the log.

3. Stations using SSB only may be logged on the 28, 21, 14, 7, 3.5 and 1.8MHz bands. Single band entries will be accepted.

4. SECTIONS:

"A": Single operator

"B": Multi operator-multi receiver

"C": Multi operator, single receiver

5. SCORING:

a) Each different prefix heard on each band will count as a multiplier and will be worth 1 point.

b) Each station heard on each band will count 1 point.

Total points will be calculated as follows: The number of prefixes heard on each band added together, multiplied by the number of points scored on each band added together.

6. For the purposes of the Challenge, a prefix shall be the first part of any callsign including the number, for example - DA1, A45, 9Q2, J37, 6D2 etc. Other examples include - stations using callsigns such as VK6XX/8 counts as VK8, and JT/JA1XX counts as JT1.

7. Entries must show a) Date, b) Time (GMT), c) callsign of station heard (the callsign of the station being worked is NOT required), d) Prefix (if new), e) RS of station heard at SWL's QTH.

8. A separate log must be kept for each band. A list of prefixes heard on each band MUST be provided.

9. Logs must be sent to:

Bob Treacher BRS32525,
93 Elibank Road,
Eltham,
LONDON SE9 1QJ,
ENGLAND

to be postmarked no later than 30 April 1997.

10. Please include £1, 2 IRCs or \$1 to receive a copy of the Results Booklet.

NA QSO PARTY

Here are the complete rules for the 1997 NAQP contests

1. Please send your NAQP Team pre-registrations in prior to the start of the contest. Send CW Teams to K6ZZ (w9nq@ccis.com) and SSB to Steve, K6AW (merchant@silcom.com).

2. We will both be accepting E-Mail log submissions again at the addresses listed. Send your complete Log and Summary Sheet in ASCII Text format. Please, no binary or special format files.

3. Please read through the rules. There have been a few minor changes made.

4. Above all, have fun!

1997 North American QSO Party Rules

1) Eligibility: Any licensed radio amateur may enter.

2) Object: To work as many North Ameri-

can stations (and/or other stations if you are in North America) as possible during the contest period.

3) Entry Classification: 1) Single Operator and 2) Multi-Operator Two-Transmitter. Multi Operator stations shall keep a separate log for each transmitter. Multi Operator stations must have at least 10 minutes between band changes. Use of helpers or spotting nets by Single Operator entries is not permitted. Single Operator entrants may only have one transmitted signal at a time. Output power must be limited to 150 watts for eligible entries.

4) Contest periods:

August Contests: CW: 1800 UTC August 2 to 0600 UTC August 3, 1997. SSB: 1800 UTC August 16 to 0600 UTC August 17, 1997.

Multi Operator stations may operate for the entire 12 hour period. Single Operator stations may operate 10 out of 12 hours. Off times must be at least 30 minutes in length and must be clearly marked in the log.

5) Mode: CW only in CW parties. Phone only in Phone parties.

6) Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters only. You may work a station once per band. Suggested frequencies are 1815, 3535, 7035, 14035, 21035 and 28035 KHz (35 KHz up from band edge for Novice/Tech) on CW; and 1865, 3850, 7225, 14250, 21300 and 28500 KHz (28450 for Novice/Tech) on SSB. Try 10M at 1900Z and 2000Z 15M at 1930Z and 2030Z and 160M at 0430Z and 0530Z. Please avoid using the DX windows (1830-1835 KHz on 160M and 3790-3800 KHz on 80M) for Non-DX QSO's.

7) Exchange: Operator name and station location (State, Province or Country). If the name sent is changed during the contest, as sometimes happens with Multi-Operator

stations, the name sent for each QSO must be entered in the log.

8) Valid Contact: A valid contact consists of a complete, correctly copied and legibly logged two-way exchange between a North American station and any another station. Proper logging requires including the time of each contact. Regardless of the number of licensed call signs issued to a given operator, one and only one call sign shall be utilised during the contest by that operator.

9) North American Station: Defined by the rules of the CQWW DX Contests with the addition of KH6.

10) Scoring: Multiply total valid contacts by the sum of the number of multipliers worked on each band. Multipliers are US States (including KH6 and KL7), Canadian Provinces/Territories (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, PEI, Labrador, Yukon, and NWT) and other North American Countries (Note: do not also count USA, Canada, KH6, or KL7 as Countries). Non-North American Countries do not count as multipliers, but may be worked for QSO credit.

11) Reporting: Send North American QSO Party CW logs to Bob Selbrede K6ZZ, 6200 Natoma Ave, Mojave, CA. 93501. Send SSB logs to Steve Merchant K6AW, 1795 Cravens Lane, Carpinteria, CA. 93013. Entries must be postmarked not later than 30 days after the contest to be eligible for awards.

A proper entry consists of: (1) a Summary Sheet showing the number of valid contacts and multipliers by band, total contacts and multipliers, total score, team name (if any), power output, name, callsign, and address of the operator, station callsign and station location; (2) a complete legible log of all contacts (including dupes marked as such) with indication of all multipliers claimed; (3) a separate Dupe Sheet for each band; and

(4) a list of all claimed multipliers worked on each band. Logs may be submitted on 3.5" disk in the form of files generated by a computer logging program as long as they are MS-DOS compatible ASCII files consisting of all information in (1)-(4) above. All entries should include a written, signed statement of "Fair and Ethical Operation". All logs containing over 200 QSO's, which were generated with a computer logging program, must also include a disk copy of the ASCII Text log as defined above. Complete rules, sample Log Sheets and a Summary Sheet may be obtained with an SASE to K6ZZ or K6AW.

12) Team Competition: You may wish to form a team with fellow NAQP participants. If so, your team shall consist of 2 to 5 Single Operator stations as a single entry unit. Clubs or other groups having more than 5 members may submit multiple team entries. **PRE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT:** To qualify as a team entry, the team organizer should ensure that the name, callsign of each operator, and call sign of the station operated should the operator be a guest at a station other than his own, (e.g. N4RJ op by KM9P) must be registered with K6ZZ for CW and K6AW for SSB. The team registration information must be in written or telegraphic form and must be received before the start of the contest. There are neither distance nor meeting requirements for a team entry. The only requirement is pre-registration of the team.

13) Penalties and Disqualifications: For each unmarked duplicate QSO, you lose that contact plus an additional three contacts; for each QSO for which you are not in the other stations log, you lose that QSO plus an additional one contact; and for each QSO for which the log data is incorrectly copied in any respect, you lose that contact. Entries with score reductions greater than 5 % will be disqualified. Any entry may be disqualified for illegibility, illegal or non-ethical operation. Such qualification is at the discre-

tion of the NCJ Contest Review Committee.

14) Awards: A total of five plaques will be awarded for the high score in each of the following categories:

- ☐ Single Operator CW
- ☐ Single Operator Phone
- ☐ Multi Operator CW
- ☐ Multi Operator Phone
- ☐ Single Operator Combined High Score

Certificates of merit will be awarded to the highest scoring entrant with at least 200 QSO's from each State, Province, and North American Country.

ZL SUPER STATION

A DX super station is being established in New Zealand. The station will be located just outside Wellington the capital city and run by the Wellington Amateur Radio Club. The main amateur radio club in the Wellington city area.

The station is being established on the site of an old HF Government receiving station which is now no longer used for Government purposes due to satellites etc.

The station is located on a farm, on high bluffs overlooking the sea and consists of a number of already established rhombic antennas. Each rhombic is 1500 ft long in each leg and on 60 foot high masts. In addition there are a number of V beams, again these are 1500 feet per leg.

The Wellington Amateur Radio club will be happy to let visitors use the station subject to a few conditions and payment of a suitable small donation.

It is hoped that the station will be used in DX contests especially where 160/80/40 are favoured but antennas are due to be put up for other HF bands too of course.

In addition to 500 acres of farm land, noise

free of course, there is also the former radio station building which the club has sole use of too. This is a very large house with 9 or ten rooms, kitchen, toilets etc.

This is a unique opportunity for a New Zealand Radio club to have access to a major antenna installation on an on going basis and we will be happy to share it with visitors from overseas who might want to do a little DX operating from New Zealand.

The establishment of this station callsign ZL2WB (Wellington Branch) will bring to two the super DX club stations in New Zealand. The other being that of the Kiwi Contest Group ZL2NX/ZM2K which is also located on a farm near Wellington.

Further information can be gained, on either group, from Ron Wills ZL2TT/ZL8RI after 13 March at: 11 Bushey Way, Maungaraki, Lower Hutt, New Zealand.

CONTEST CALENDAR

RSGB Commonw'lth	Mar 8-9
Wisconsin QSO Party	Mar 9-10
Bermuda Contest	Mar 15-16
BARTG WW RTTY Contest	Mar 15-17
Russian DX Contest	Mar 15-16
CQWW WPX SSB	Mar 29-30
SP DX CW	Apr 5-6
EA RTTY	Apr 5-6
Holyland	Apr 5-6
JA Int HF DX	Apr 11-13
UBA HF 80m	Apr 13
YU DX	Apr 19-20
SP DX RTTY	Apr 19-20
EU SSB Sprint	Apr 19
Helvetia	Apr 26-27
Ontario QSO Party	Apr 26-27
Texas QSO Party	May 3-4
ARI DX	May 3-4
EU CW Sprint	May 17
CQWW WPX CW	24-25 May
IARU Reg 1 Field Day CW	Jun 7-8
Asia Pacific Sprint CW	Jun 14
All Asian CW	Jun 21-22

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